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Hu...go your way, I'll go mine
Two homes moved off their foundations by hurricane Hugo block the beach road in South Carolina and are jammed against an apartment building and utility pole. (Reuter wirephoto) (See Page 4)

Fresh claim on UTA 'bomb'

PARIS, Sept 23, (Reuter): Proof began to emerge today, as experts decoded the doomed plane's flight recorders, that a bomb blew apart a French DC-10 over the Sahara.

Evidence began filtering out last night when the French Transport Ministry revealed that investigators at the isolated desert crash site believed there had been explosives on board flight UT 772.

A statement purportedly signed by a previously unknown Chadian group said today the organisation had downed the French airliner which crashed into the Sahara, killing all 170 people on board.

"The clandestine Chadian resistance declares its responsibility for the DC-10 UTA flight 772 operation of September 19, 1989," said the statement delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut.

"The struggle will continue until all colonial military troops leave Africa," said the statement, typewritten in French with several spelling mistakes.

Preliminary studies of the cockpit voice and electronic data recorders, flown to Paris for expert examination, confirmed today what was already suspected — that a sudden explosion sent the plane and 170 people hurtling out of the sky.

"Examination (of the recorder) shows that the flight was proceeding normally, then there was a total blackout indicating a mid-flight explosion," the ministry spokeswoman told Reuters.

"A civil aviation team is studying the cockpit recording of conversations between the pilot and crew while the digital data recorder is being decoded by military aviation experts.

Eight passengers who left the doomed French DC-10 during its stopover in Ndjamena have been cleared as suspects in the crash after questioning by Chadian police, a UTA airline spokesman said today.

The DC-10, on a flight from Brazzaville, Congo, to Marseille and Paris, blew up over Niger shortly after taking off.

Opec lines drawn Ceiling debate may raise roof

GENEVA, Sept 23, (Agencies): Opec ministers met today to try to close ranks and agree on whether they can boost their crude production without upsetting the oil market.

Some worried a pickup in output would hurt oil prices and their countries' needed revenues from crude sales.

The officials of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries held their first round of talks over the sensitive issues in a luxury hotel in this picturesque Swiss city.

The Opec's Secretary-General, Subroto, said the ministers had eight items on their agenda, ranging from plotting a long-term strategy to marking the organisation's 30th anniversary in 1990.

But the most heated discussions will no doubt centre on the question of whether Opec should raise its output by 500,000 barrels a day or so in the last three months of the year.

Subroto said that the ministerial committee is empowered to raise the organisation's production ceiling from 19.5 million barrels of crude per day to 20 million bpd if the situation in world oil market so warrants.

Led by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, the Opec already is producing well over its production ceiling of 19.5 million barrels a day for the last half of the year.

Without raising in the over-producers, analysts say, prices could slip a bit with increased supply. Gasoline prices at the pump would likely be little affected, though.

Even before the talks began, the ministers were divided over their next step.

One side appeared to feel the market was steady enough and consumer demand strong enough to absorb an increase.

Mansoor bin Jaber Al Nahyan, petroleum minister for the United Arab Emirates, said that "there are some indications" the market could absorb an increase.

A final decision, he said, "depends on the market."

"If the market is allowing that, we will do it. If not... we will not increase the ceiling," he told reporters before the start of the evening meeting.

The other set of ministers clearly wanted Opec to concentrate on getting prices up to its target of \$18 a barrel. They feared higher production would weaken prices.

"We hope that everybody will come down... with what he is producing so we can get to \$18," said Libyan Oil Minister Fawzi Shakshuki.

Nigeria's oil chief, Rilwanu Lukman, who is also president of Opec, said "we would like it to be \$18."



Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa

DAY BY DAY

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Zahed Matar

Praise for Kuwait as Iraq welcomes Amir

Talks to focus on bilateral ties, Arab issues

BAGHDAD, Sept 23, (Agencies): The Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, arrived in Baghdad today for a three-day state visit and was hailed for his support for Iraq during the eight-year war against Iran.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and senior government officials welcomed him at Baghdad airport.

Saddam and the Amir rode in a black Cadillac escorted by police outriders through central Baghdad to a state banquet in the Kuwaiti leader's honour at the presidential palace on the banks of the Tigris River.

The Amir, making his first visit to Iraq since he assumed power 11 years ago, was accompanied by senior government officials.

They included Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid Al Rashid and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Osaibi.

Sources close to the Kuwaiti delegation said the Amir and Saddam later held talks on bilateral relations, the stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks and "issues of mutual concern."

The Amir's visit to Iraq was his first stop on a tour that will also take him to Europe and Africa.

Iraq's state-run media praised Kuwait and the Amir on the eve of his visit for their support for Iraq during the Gulf war.

The daily Al Thawrah said that the ties between Kuwait and Iraq has deepened over the years thanks to the great role of the Amir and Saddam.

The daily added that Kuwait spared no effort in serving national causes and unifying Arab ranks, and commended Kuwait for its steadfastness against threats and blackmail, bringing back to mind the attempt on the life of the Amir in 1985.

The daily Al Jumhuriya praised Kuwait's national stance, saying that "Iraq highly respects and appreciates such original and expressive stances."

The daily said: "The relation between Iraq and Kuwait was nothing but a brother-to-brother relation."

It also applauded Kuwait's policy on refusing all forms of blackmail and terrorism.

The Amir will pay an official visit to France on Monday, after concluding his talks in Iraq.

In a related development, Kuwait's defence minister said in an interview published in local newspapers today that no arms deal would be signed between Kuwait and France during Amir's visit to Paris.

But Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed stressed that there was "close military co-operation between the two countries."



HH the Amir (left) and President Saddam Hussein listening to national anthems.



HH the Amir inspects a guard of honour after his arrival in Baghdad.

Syria to lift Beirut blockade Guns almost silent

BEIRUT, Sept 23, (Agencies): Syrian and Christian forces clashed with mortars and machine-guns in the hills overlooking Beirut tonight hours after a ceasefire was declared and thousands of refugees were flooding back to their war-battered city.

Police reported three people were wounded in the Christian enclave north of Beirut, besieged for the last six months, when mortar rounds exploded in residential neighbourhoods.

Officials said the clashes appeared limited. But Beirutis who have seen several ceasefires collapse were jumpy.

A security committee made up of officials from the warring factions and headed by Arab League envoy Lakhdar Al Ibrahim met earlier at the shell-battered horse racetrack on Beirut's dividing Green Line and announced that blockades imposed in March by both sides will be lifted immediately.

Ibrahim told reporters that the committee agreed "to work immediately on consolidating a ceasefire" and to reopen Beirut airport when the one-hour meeting ended at 3.15 pm (1215 GMT).

But three hours later, the fighting flared. Ibrahim told the Christian Voice of Lebanon radio: "These are unnecessary setbacks. I'm getting in touch with the members of the committee to curb this deterioration."

The clashes were the first reported since 10 pm (1900 GMT) yesterday. Sporadic bursts of automatic weapons fire and occasional rocket-propelled grenade explosions had been heard throughout the day along the Green Line.

Beirut airport, the country's only civil aviation facility, has been closed since March 12, the longest shutdown since Lebanon's civil war broke out in 1975.

Khaled Saab, the airport's general manager, said preparations to reopen the facility in Muslim-controlled south Beirut have been completed and he urged airlines to resume flights.

Salim Salam, general manager of Lebanon's national carrier Middle East Airlines, said in a statement that the first MEA plane was scheduled to

land at Beirut at 8.45 am (0545 GMT) on Monday.

Muslims and Christians jammed the streets of the divided city in subdued but happy mood this morning as the Arab League peace plan unveiled a week ago appeared sure of at least temporary success.

Diplomats said the plan, which won quick backing from Syria and its Lebanese militia allies, provided the best chance in many years for ending the civil war.

Christian Army Chief General Michel Aoun, who launched a "war of liberation" on March 14 to expel Syria's 33,000 troops, agreed to the seven-point peace plan yesterday.

"The committee declared the immediate end of the sea blockade and the opening of Beirut airport," said Ibrahim, adding that it would meet again tomorrow to take further steps.

The committee comprises representatives of the Christian and Muslim wings of the divided Army, the hardline Christian Lebanese Forces militia, the Syrian-backed Shiite Amal Movement and the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party.

Workers at Beirut international airport, south of the city's Muslim suburbs, spent today cleaning, repairing and installing computer terminals at check-in counters.

The Public Works Ministry said the airport was ready for incoming flights but there was no immediate indication of when the first aircraft was likely to land.

The peace plan includes the opening of all crossings over the Green Line and formation of an observer force to stop weapons and ammunition being brought in by sea.

The plan urges Lebanon's divided Parliament to meet on September 30, possibly abroad, to debate a draft national reconciliation charter.

The speaker of Lebanon's Parliament, Hussein Husseini, confirmed the meeting would take place and said he expected deputies to elect a head of state within two weeks of the meeting.

20 die in Kabul hit

KABUL, Sept 23, (Reuter): An Afghan rebel rocket crashed into a crowded Kabul market today, killing 20 people and wounding 45, the government said.

The market blast came a day after the rebels staged their most ferocious attack on the Afghan capital in weeks, killing at least 17 people and wounding dozens more with a fusillade of rockets fired from the mountains ringing Kabul.

"They are not only aimed at causing destruction — physical, financial and human — but also aimed at creating panic to urge people to leave town and curb repatriation of refugees," government spokesman Mohammad Amani said.

(See Page 11)

Drug barons try a buy-out; bust in Spain

BOGOTA, Sept 23, (AP): Colombia's top two cocaine lords wait to negotiate an end to their war with the government and have offered to pump some of their illicit profits into the nation's industrial sector, a law-maker said.

Meanwhile, two men confessed to killing Sen. Luis Carlos Galan, the popular presidential candidate whose assassination touched off the war between the government and Colombia's drug lords, Colombian news media said today.

The President of Colombia's House of Representatives, Norberto Morales, said at a news conference yesterday in Medellin that he was telephoned by Pablo Escobar and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, kingpins of the infamous Medellin cartel.

A tape recording of the news conference was broadcast today by Bogota radio stations. There was no answer at Morales' office in Medellin.

Morales said Escobar and Rodriguez Gacha offered to invest millions of dollars in Colombian industry if a truce was reached. He said he had passed the information along to President Virgilio Barco.

This would not be the first time Escobar, Rodriguez and other suspected members of the Medellin cartel have tried to buy amnesty.

Spanish police said today they had smashed an Iranian-run gang of drug-smugglers operating in Madrid and had confiscated three kg (6.6 pounds) of heroin.

(See Page 4)



White plague
A supporter of South Africa's neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) fights with a black onlooker at the white supremacist movement's rally in Pretoria. (Reuter wirephoto) (See Page 6)

Aquino confident Army can block any coup attempt

MANILA, Sept 23, (Reuter): Philippine President Corason Aquino, beset by a fresh spate of coup rumours, said yesterday she was confident the military could defeat any new attempt to overthrow her.

"The military has assured me that there is no group capable of mounting a coup and I am confident that it can handle any coup attempt," the 56-year-old leader said in a statement to reporters after meeting defence and military advisers at the presidential palace to review national security and the performance of the armed forces.

She denied press reports that the military had been placed on red alert in the capital and said there was no truth to fresh rumours of a coup attempt.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos said security forces were watching key government installations and public utilities.

He told reporters preliminary investigations by police showed there was nothing to link three grenade attacks in the Philippine capital last weekend to one group. The military initially suspected Muslim separatists were responsible.

Aquino, who took office in a "people power" revolt in 1986, said on Thursday recent bombings in Manila and disclosures of alleged government irregularities could be part of a plot to destabilise the government.

"There is the possibility that this chain of events could be part of a scenario set by some sectors who would like to grab power," Aquino said in a statement.

Irving Berlin dies

NEW YORK, Sept 23, (Reuter): Irving Berlin, one of the world's best-loved composers whose songs include "White Christmas" and "There's no business like show business," died in his sleep on Friday at age 101.

Berlin, the author of well over 1,000 songs, died in the early evening.

(See Page 3)

Toll 20, brake probed

ALTON, Texas, Sept. 23, (AP) — Federal investigators have found no evidence to support a truck driver's claim that his brakes failed before the vehicle rammed a school bus into a water-filled pit, killing 20 teenagers, an official has said.

"From a visual inspection, we can find nothing to indicate a failure in the braking system," said Lee Dickinson, a national transportation safety board member.

Dickinson said yesterday that the visual inspection was 90 per cent complete, but that investigators had to conduct other tests.

The 10-member team of investigators planned to interview truck driver Ruben Perez and his assistant, who also was in the delivery truck when it hit the bus on Thursday.

Perez told Texas department of public safety troopers on Thursday that the brakes failed on the truck, causing him to go into the intersection and hit the bus.

The bus, carrying 86 passengers, careened into the 40-foot (12-metre) pit owned by the city of Alton.

The death toll from the accident rose to 20 yesterday. At least 63 people were injured when the bus tumbled into the water-filled pit. One student and the bus driver, Gilberto Pena, 46, remained in critical but stable condition, another student was critical and unconscious at Mission General hospital.



Melanie Jonkers (left) of Alexandria, Va., the star witness for the defence in the cop-slapping trial of Gabor testifies she was roughed up by the same officer Gabor is accused of assaulting. Gabor (right) listens as Jonkers describes her run-in with police officer Kramer. (Reuter wirephoto)



Gabor leans over to kiss her husband, Prince Frederick von Anhalt, during the misdemeanor trial. (Reuter wire photo)

Rift over death threat against Rushdie

Three resign from Nobel Academy

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 23, (AP) — One of the members of the Nobel prize-awarding Swedish academy, who resigned after a six-month boycott, criticised the institution yesterday for not condemning the death threat against British author Salman Rushdie.

The academy secretary, Prof. Sture Allen, confirmed that he received three letters of resignation, but said none could be accepted since the 200-year-old statutes stipulates that members are elected for life.

The rift came only weeks before the announcement of the winner of the Nobel prize for literature. The prize date is never set in advance, but traditionally is in early October.

"I am upset about the Rushdie affair," Kerstin Ekman, one of two women in the 18-member body, told Swedish radio after her resignation.

Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses* caused an outcry by some religious Muslims, who consider it blasphemous. The late Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's spiritual leader, said Rushdie must be killed, and the author has been in hiding.

Ekman, 56, and former academy secretary Dr Lars Gyllenstein, 68, had been boycotting academy work since February, protesting the body's failure to specifically condemn the death threat.

Several academy other members also protested, but accepted the academy's tradition of not making official statements on political issues.

Ekman said the three resigning academy members had not planned their action together.

French killed in hostage drama

DROIXHE, Belgium, Sept. 23, (Agencies) — Belgian police shot dead France's most-wanted criminal today after he and two accomplices held a mother and her two children hostage for six days.

A police spokesman said Frenchman Philippe Delaire, leader of the gang, was killed in a showdown on the roof of a 28-floor apartment block in Droixhe, a suburb of Liege. His companions gave themselves up shortly afterwards.

Delaire, 28, and his accomplices released their hostages earlier in exchange for a 30 million franc (\$720,000) ransom and a getaway car, at the end of a six-day siege in the Village of THF, close to the West German and Dutch borders.

The three men then sped away from the suburban home in a blue Mercedes which police made available to them. Police said the car left in the direction of the Dutch city of Maastricht, some 30 kilometres (18 miles) to the north turned back toward Liege, changed cars twice, and the trio threatened to hurl hand grenades as police pursued them into an apartment building.

Authorities repeatedly urged the trio to surrender and finally stormed the building.

Authorities identified the other two men as Belgians Tony Wagemans, 21, and Edouard Dolecki, 27. Wagemans was wounded in the shootout and Dolecki was overpowered, authorities said.

The hostages — Marie-Madeleine Jeuris, and her two daughters Francoise, 12, and Gaelle, 10, — were released moments early last evening.

"We kept our word," Leon Glet, the general prosecutor in this east Belgian city, said of the deal to pay the ransom and provide a car.

That deal was struck with the hostage-takers Thursday.

The drama began last Saturday night when the three men burst into the villa of Guy Jeuris, manager of a bank in THF, and demanded he open the bank safe early Monday morning.

Jeuris, however, managed to escape Sunday night by jumping from a window.

Left behind, however, were his wife, Marie-Madeleine Bolland, and her two daughters from a previous marriage.

Jeuris alerted police, who surrounded the villa, stationing sharpshooters behind trees and on rooftops.

After days of negotiations, the courtiers agreed to release the girls in exchange for the ransom provided by the bank. They also demanded a getaway car, which police provided, and a 15-minute headstart.

Gaelle was released first in exchange for a bag with \$375,000 and the other girl was released a few minutes later for another bag containing the same amount. Police said both were in good condition.

About an hour and a half later, the three men sped away with the mother in the getaway car. Police cars and a helicopter pursued them a few minutes later.

The woman was released near Liege, but the suspects disappeared into the city's busy streets. In a statement, Justice Minister Melchior Wathelet praised the authorities for refraining from using violence to end the hostage drama and expressed his "disgust" for the hostage-takers.

Delaire and three other criminals were involved in the hostage-taking of a bank manager in the Netherlands in 1987. At that time, they escaped.

'Trial ruining my love life'

I'm so tired, complains Gabor

BEVERLY HILLS, California, Sept. 23, (UPI) — Zsa Zsa Gabor said yesterday during a break in her cop-slapping trial that her court appearances are ruining her love life and suggested the officer she is accused of assaulting be shipped off to a kibbutz.

"I'm so tired when I get home at six," an exhausted Gabor said during an afternoon break on the 10th day of her trial.

"Even if he wants to make love to me," she said pointing to her eighth husband, Prince Frederick von Anhalt of West Germany. "I say go away. It's ruining my love life."

The prosecution spent much of the morning attempting to debunk the testimony of defence witness Rosa Peric, who has publicly and unabashedly proclaimed herself to be "Zsa Zsa's witness."

Peric testified that she saw officer Paul Kramer roughly pull Zsa Zsa Gabor from her car, handcuff her and slam her against the quarter-million-dollar Rolls-Royce.

Deputy district attorney Elden Fox, on cross-examination, appeared to question the reliability of Peric's testimony and the motivation for it.

Peric, Fox pointed out, had twice this week been invited to Gabor's Bel Air mansion and was even given a teddy bear by the actress. The prosecutor said Fox also had been lavished with press attention since first making her eyewitness account public.

Peric didn't deny the mansion visits, the press attention or the teddy bear. But she stuck by her testimony.

Peric, who said she pulled her car up behind Gabor's Rolls and the officer's motorcycle parked on Olympic boulevard on June 14, testified that she saw the 6-foot-4 (1.95 m) Kramer yank the 5-foot-5 (1.67 m) former glamour queen to her feet and tower menacingly over her before she slapped him.

"He was looking over her, and she was scared," Peric said.

Peric, pressed by Fox, agreed that she had been interviewed by a variety of radio and TV stations. And, yes, she said, she had been to Gabor's mansion, where she declared at the gate, "I'm Zsa Zsa's witness," on Monday and Tuesday evenings and discussed "general details" of the case. And, yes, she received a teddy bear.

Peric, appearing distressed under Fox' questioning, prompted Gabor to call out from the defence table: "I will help you, dahlink."

Fox shot back: "I'm sure you were, ma'am."

Another defence witness, Stephen Lopez, testified that he was treated roughly by Kramer two years ago following an accident.

"I don't like to use the simile but he acted like a Nazi," said Lopez. "I was sitting on the hood of my car and when I stood up to explain (my side) he pushed me back on the car and said, 'shut up.' His tone was like he was talking to a dog giving a command."

Lopez said Kramer did this twice, threatened to cite him and then left the scene without ever hearing his side of the two-car collision.

During the afternoon break, Gabor, forgetting an admonishment from judge Charles Robin not to speak to reporters, said that "what I would do with Kramer is first send him to a kibbutz, then to Iran or Iraq where he can shoot and kill."

Ivory cartel to be formed

HARARE, Sept. 23, (AP) — Zimbabwe yesterday launched plans to form a cartel of southern African nations to regulate ivory sales and challenge Western bans on ivory imports.

Natural Resources and Tourism Minister Victoria Chitepo said the plan, awaiting formal ratification by members of a nine-nation economic group, will be presented to international conservationists meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, in October.

Representatives of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference economic grouping will lobby for support at the Lausanne meeting of the convention for international trade in endangered species, she said.

In Zimbabwe's first official response to ivory bans recently imposed in Europe and the United States, Chitepo said prohibition did not take account of African nations with abundant elephant herds whose controlled "harvesting" provided income for rural communities.

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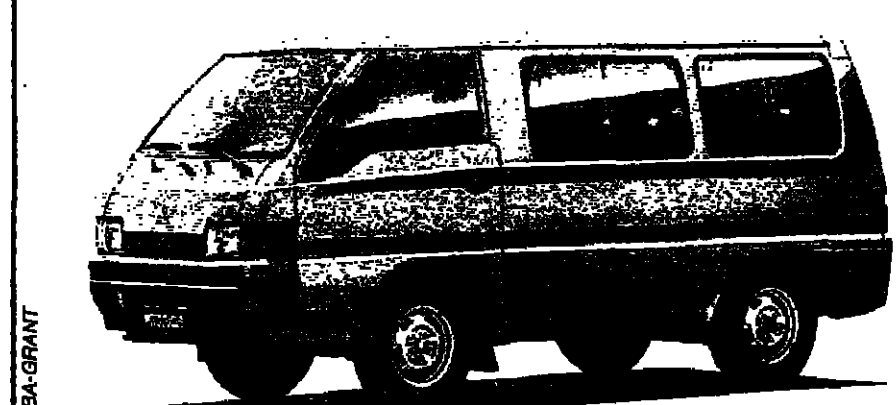
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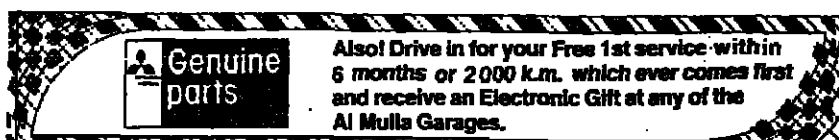
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Regulators worried by side effects of sleeping pill

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23, (Reuters) Food and Drug Administration officials said yesterday they were worried about side effects reported by users of the world's best-selling sleeping pill.

Doctor Paul Leber of the FDA said the drug, Halcion, "has been the subject of recurring waves of adverse reports since its introduction into the domestic market."

Leber told the agency's psychopharmacological drugs advisory committee, a panel of outside experts, that the agency was seeking its advice because it did not know how to interpret the side-effect reports.

Another FDA official, Charles Anello, called the reports "something to be concerned about."

He said reports of amnesia, anxiety, hallucinations, confusion, intentional injury and seizures have been recorded for Halcion far out of proportion to the drug's market share.

But Leber cautioned that the agency's side-effects recording system provided information that was difficult to interpret.

The drug, manufactured by Up

John Co. of Kalamazoo, Michigan, was first introduced in Belgium in 1977 and is now available in over 70 countries.

In one well-publicised case involving the side effects of Halcion, a 55-year-old Utah woman charged in an ongoing lawsuit that taking the drug made her shoot and killed her 83-year-old mother. She claims that the drug also made her lose all memory of her act.

She was charged with murder but a judge dismissed the charge after two doctors testified she had become irrationally intoxicated because of Halcion.

A second murder and an attempted murder have also been linked to the drug in court proceedings.

Meanwhile FDA's advisory committee have unanimously recommended the agency change the label on Up John Co.'s sleeping pill to advise doctors the drug may be more likely to cause amnesia than similar medications.

Dr. Daniel Casey, chairman of the advisory committee, said amnesia was the only potential problem with Halcion that stood out sharply in data presented yesterday by Up John.

Suspect in Budd's death held

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 23, (Agencies) A 25-year old white man has been arrested in connection with the death of the father of South African-born athlete Zola Budd, police said today.

The man, who was not named, was detained last evening about 150 km (90 miles) from the farmhouse near Bloemfontein where Frank Budd was found shot dead.

Police said they found a shotgun and pickup truck that was missing from Budd's farmhouse when they arrested the 24-year-old man last night in Welkom, 100 kilometres (62 miles) north of the farm near the central city of Bloemfontein.

Newspapers reported today that police had been seeking a young man who had been doing construction work on the farm, where Budd's body was found yesterday.

The man was expected to be charged with murder when he appeared in court on Monday, a spokesman said.

Budd, 56, was found by a neighbour, sprawled on his bed with shotgun wounds in his left shoulder and side.

His daughter, who tried to evade anti-apartheid boycotts by taking British citizenship in 1984, effectively ended her international athletics career last month when she took part in a domestic race.

Frank Budd, who acted as Zola's trainer in the early days of her career, had long been estranged from the rest of the family. He spoke out bitterly in newspapers last April when he was not invited to Zola's wedding to a liquor store owner.

Budd, a retired printer, was divorced from Mrs. Budd's mother and lived alone.

According to various reports, Mrs. Budd and her father argued frequently after she left South Africa for Britain in 1984 so she could compete internationally.

Mrs. Budd set several distance running world records and twice won the world cross-country championships while living and training in Britain. But she was constantly dogged by anti-apartheid protesters who said she should not be allowed to compete because of her South African connections.



Berlin pictured in this 1943 file picture dressed as a doughboy from World War I as he offers a rendition of "Oh, How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning." Berlin in 1969 (inset) (Reuters wirephoto)

Irving Berlin is dead

Greatest songwriter in US history

NEW YORK, Sept. 23, (UPI) Irving Berlin, the Russian-born composer whose "God Bless America" and "White Christmas" ranked him as the greatest popular songwriter in US history, died in his sleep yesterday in his Manhattan home. He was 101.

Berlin, who as a child sang for pennies on Lower East Side street corners, died of natural causes at his luxury Beekman Place home about 5:30 pm, said his son-in-law, Alton Peters.

"He died very, very peacefully," said Peters, the secretary of the Metropolitan Opera Association.

Berlin, who marked his 101st birthday on May 11, composed some 900 songs over half a century for such performers as Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire, winning honours that included a congressional gold medal, the French Legion of Honour and in 1977 the medal of freedom.

Long after he retired, he was honoured at the 1978 presentation of the Antoinette Perry awards, receiving a special Tony "for distinguished lifetime work in the theatre."

"This is a great loss," said composer Burt Bacharach through a spokeswoman. "Irving Berlin has left us with the greatest legacy through his music. His contributions to American popular music are immeasurable."

A small, slender man with lively brown eyes, heavy-rimmed glasses and abundant black hair, Berlin kept youthful looking long after most of his colleagues were dead.

Berlin's wife, author Elvin Berlin, died at a New York hospital on July 29, 1988, following a series of strokes. She was 85. The couple had marked their 62nd wedding anniversary in January 1988.

For the last decade of his life Berlin lived as a virtual recluse, communicating with old friends by telephone. He left his East Side Manhattan home infrequently for auto excursions, walks, or a visit to his office in the Broadway theatre district.

By the time he turned 99, in 1987, Berlin had outlived the copyright on some of his most popular works, including "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

The copyright law providing protection to authors and composers for 56 years, plus an extension of 19 years granted in 1978, began to put his earlier works into the public domain, depriving him of some royalties.

Berlin was born Israel Baline in the village of Telnoy, Kirgizia, near Russia's Siberian border, on May 11, 1888, the first of eight children of Rabbi Moses Baline and his wife Leah Lipkin. It was a time of pogroms. When the boy was 4 his ramshackle house was burned to ashes.

The Balines together with their children — there were then four — emigrated to New York City the following year and moved into a crowded tenement on Cherry Street in the heart of the Jewish neighbourhood of the Lower East Side. Berlin's childhood was poor in material things but provided him a rich knowledge of human nature. He later said: "Everybody ought to have a Lower East Side in their life."

The rabbi worked as a cantor in the most impoverished section of the slums. He sang in the synagogue on high holy days, and taught Irving and his brothers the hymns of the Jewish faith.

Berlin was 8 when his father died, and the boy started singing on corners for pennies. When he was 14, he ran away from home — as far as four blocks west to the Bowery, where he became an assistant to an itinerant street singer and occasionally sang

Crash pilots' licences withheld

NEW YORK, Sept. 23, (Agencies) Federal authorities suspended the licences of the pilot and co-pilot of a USAir jet that crashed in New York and investigators said the pilot told them he aborted take-off after the plane started veering and vibrating on the runway.

They also quoted the pilot as saying the inexperienced co-pilot, at the controls, pushed the wrong button.

"There was clearly a lack of proper procedures being followed in the cockpit," National Transportation Safety Board acting chairman James Kolstad said.

In addition to the confusion over the throttle button, no one was calling out the jet's runway speed, which Kolstad said is still in dispute. Speed was a factor in whether the crew could abort take-off and remain safely on the La Guardia airport runway on Wednesday night.

Two people were killed and 45 injured when the Boeing 737 skidded, split into three parts, and crashed into an inlet of the East River. It was raining lightly, but authorities have said weather did not seem to be a factor.

The Federal Aviation Administration suspended the two pilots' licences yesterday. FAA chief James Busey said in a statement in Washington.

"For these two pilots to have been sequestered for more than 36 hours after an accident that took two lives and to do so with no explanation is highly questionable," he said.

"These actions have also negated the opportunity for any meaningful toxicological testing, thereby denying us factual information as to whether drugs were or were not a factor," he added. Drugs normally leave the body's system in a day or so.

Kolstad told a news conference yesterday that Flight 5050 taxied out uneventfully with Captain Michael Martin at the controls.

But at take-off, 29-year-old co-pilot Constantine Kleissas was at the controls, his first operational take-off since completing flight training, Kolstad said.

The captain "jumped in" to advance the throttles manually, said Kolstad, but the plane was then drifting to the left and the crew, the senior flight attendant and at least one passenger also felt vibration.

The captain was not able to correct the problems, and tried to abort the take-off.

After the pilot aborted the take-off, the jetliner slid off the end of the runway and into the East River, which runs through the centre of New York City. Two passengers in the back of the plane died.

After the crash, the pilot and co-pilot helped passengers get out of the plane, Kolstad said.

The pilot took a rescue boat to the airport and then a taxi to the Marriott Hotel, where he called his union representative, he said.

The pilot and co-pilot have agreed to be interviewed by investigators, who hope to understand why they aborted take-off, federal officials said yesterday.

Information recovered from flight data and cockpit voice recorders failed to explain the crash, which killed two women passengers, officials said.

A subpoena is a written legal order directing a person to give testimony.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

BRANDON, Florida: A high school student threatened with suspension for refusing to stand during the pledge of allegiance because he is an atheist no longer has to worry about being tossed out of school.

At Mack Brown was told earlier this week by Brandon High School principal Linwood Nelson that if he refused to stand during the daily recitation of the pledge to the flag, he would be suspended.

But Hillsborough School superintendent Walter Sickles told Nelson on Thursday a state law requiring students to stand during the pledge is unconstitutional. (UPI)

LONDON: Daily beer drinkers are 12 times more at risk of developing cancer of the colon than non-drinkers, a British medical journal said on Friday, quoting Japanese researchers.

The Lancet said researchers at the Institute of Preventive Oncology, in Tokyo, found a striking association between alcohol and cancer of the sigmoid colon, part of the large intestine. (Reuters)

NEW YORK: A protein that accumulates in the brains of Alzheimer's disease patients is also present in their skin and intestines, a discovery that may lead to better diagnosis and treatment, a new study says.

If such deposits come from some substance that circulates in the blood, finding ways to block delivery to the brain may help fight the disease, said researcher Dennis Selkoe.

The work also suggests that doctors may one day be able to confirm an Alzheimer's disease diagnosis by taking skin samples, he said. (AP)

LONDON: Copies of famous art works churned out by a Spanish painter sold at auction Friday for an average of \$1,000 each.

They represent the work of about six months in my studio, painter Miguel Canals said of the 244 copies he brought to sell at the Bonhams saleroom in Chelsea.

When the bidding was finished the paintings had brought in £152,000 (\$238,600).

"I am an artist and this is my hobby but as I am a Catalan, people say it's my business," he confided as auctioneer Nicholas Bonham briskly rattled through the copied Titians, Moscos, Goyas and Van Goghs.

Each took from 20 to 40 seconds to sell. (AP)

CHICAGO: A convicted swindler who nearly succeeded in taking \$69 million from a bank is now charged with trying to pay a jail guard \$70,000 to help him escape, officials said.

Armand Moore was back in court Thursday, a day after a judge sentenced him to 10 years in prison for the illegal transfer of \$69 million from the First National Bank of Chicago.

Moore was arraigned Thursday on a charge of conspiring to escape. (AP)

HALLANDALE, Florida: A condominium dweller said she would go to court if necessary to defend the "God Bless This Home" sign her condo association has deemed "offensive" and ordered removed from her front door.

The Fairways Riviera Condo Association sent Frances Reiter a letter ordering her to remove the small heart-shaped sign by Monday. If she does not, the condo association will remove it, the letter said.

"She is not supposed to put anything strange on her door," said condo board member Theo Zelander.

Reiter, who has lived in the waterfront condominium for 17 years, said she thinks the condo association is singling her out. They have allowed many of her neighbours to place trezuzas on the side of their doors, she said. (UPI)

Pope's tribute to Galileo

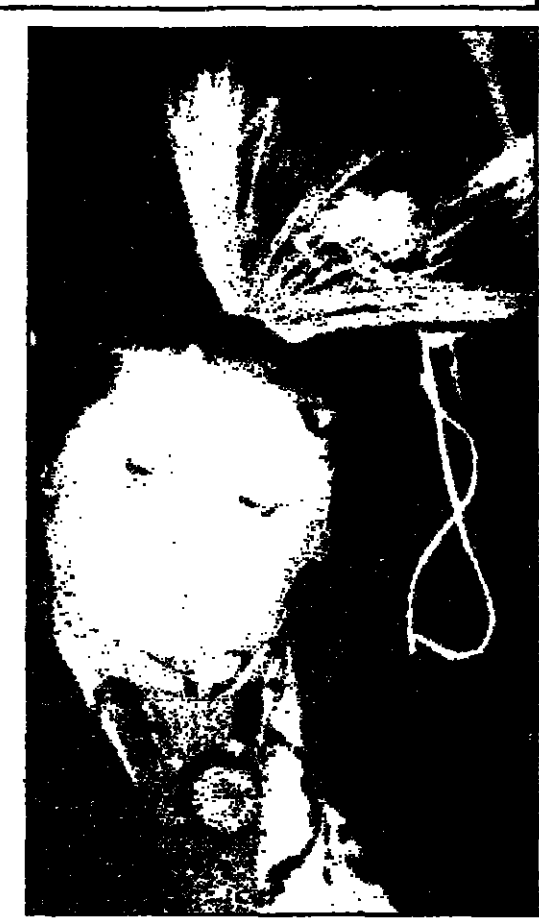
He was right

PISA, Italy, Sept. 23, (Reuters) Pope John Paul, visiting the birthplace of 16th century scientist Galileo, said the Roman Catholic church was imprudent to have condemned him for asserting that the Earth was not the centre of the universe.

The Pope was speaking yesterday in Pisa, the Tuscan city famous for its leaning tower from where Galileo is said to have carried out his experiments on gravity.

The inquisition condemned Galileo in 1633 for espousing the controversial Copernican view that the sun, and not the Earth, was the centre of the universe.

The Pope, who has made a special effort in his 10-year reign to reconcile differences between science and faith, began a three-day visit to Tuscany by referring to Galileo as "that great one" who earned himself everlasting fame.



Going native

Nanuli Shevardnadze, wife of Soviet foreign minister, tries on a native American head-dress made of porcupine quills during a visit to the Indian Art Museum of the Grand Teton National Park on Sept. 22. Mrs. Shevardnadze was accompanied by Susan Baker, wife of the US secretary of state. (Reuters wirephoto)

ROME: The Italian cabinet approved a \$1.5 billion plan on Friday to improve and extend health facilities for Aids victims.

Italy with more than 3,500 reported cases has the second highest number of Aids victims in Europe after France but has lagged behind most of its European partners in tackling the epidemic.

The draft law to be presented to parliament includes proposals for hiring an extra 750 specialist doctors and nurses, running training courses, building new clinics, improving day hospital facilities and home health services. (Reuters)

PRETORIA, South Africa: Britain and South Africa agreed Friday to share a gold treasure rumoured to be aboard a British ship that sank 137 years ago off the cape with the loss of 454 men but said the wreck's status as a military grave would be preserved.

The HMS Birkenhead, the largest iron ship of the Royal Navy when it went into service as a frigate in 1845, struck a sunken rock off Danger Point along the southwestern coast on Feb. 26, 1852 as it carried reinforcements to a British regiment along the eastern cape.

Of 638 men on board the troop ship, 454 were lost. (UPI)

ANTWERP, Belgium: King Baudouin on Friday inaugurated the Berendrecht floodgate, the biggest in the world and a key to the expansion of the Antwerp port.

The Berendrecht, with a width of 68 metres (74 yards) and length of 500 metres (547 yards), will allow bigger ships to enter the seaport near the mouth of the river Scheldt and increase Antwerp's floodgate capacity almost by half. The gate has been in use since April but was only officially inaugurated Friday.

"It is the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the Antwerp port," said regional Public Works Minister Johan Sarwens. (AP)

HAMBURG, West Germany: Police searching a hairdressing salon for a suspected thief had virtually given up their hunt when an officer noticed the silhouette of a dummy model in a dark corner.

A Hamburg police spokesman said the suspicious officer approached the motionless "mannequin" and reached out to tear off its long black wig. As he did so, the figure shuddered and was quickly arrested. (Reuters)

Priestess sentenced

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 23, (Reuters) The self-proclaimed priestess of an ancient religion, who said she had sex with 2,000 men to free them from their sins, was sentenced to 90 days in jail yesterday for prostitution and ordered to undergo Aids testing.

Clutching a white fur coat, Mary Ellen Tracy, 46, was led jail after a judge curtailed her activities as Sabrina Aser, high priestess of the church of the most high goddess.

The Los Angeles judge also suspended a one-year jail term and \$2,000 in fines and gave her three years probation.

Her husband Wilbur, 51, got a maximum sentence of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine for running a house of prostitution in the Spanish-style church with a living room and four bedrooms.

At trial the prosecution argued that the ancient Egyptian religion was a front for a prostitution ring because the men had to make donations to have sex with the "high priestess," whose religious garb was a red sequined strapless dress, black fishnet stockings and black spike heels.

Japanese author favourite to win Booker Prize

LONDON, Sept. 23, (AP) Six novels have been nominated for the Booker Prize, Britain's most prestigious fiction award, and bookmakers say the favourite is "The Remains of the Day," by Japanese author Kazuo Ishiguro, a previous nominee.

The award, to be announced on Oct. 26, carries a £20,000 (\$31,600) prize funded by the Booker McConnell Food Company.

The other books nominated are:

● "Cat's Eye," the story of painter Elaine Risley who returns to her childhood home in Toronto, by Canadian author Margaret Atwood, also a previous nominee.

● "The Book of Evidence," a thrilling prison testimony by kidnap and murder convict Freddie Montgomery, by John Banville, the literary editor of the Irish Times newspaper.

● "Rings," by veteran author Sybil Bedford, an autobiographical novel about an adolescent's travels through Germany, Italy and France.

● "A Disaffection," Scottish novelist James Kelman's story about school teacher Patrick Doyle, whose professional frustrations are fuelled by a drinking problem and his unrequited love for a colleague.

● "Restoration" an historical novel by British

Professor Rose Tremain about Robert Merivel, a favourite of King Charles II, whom the king married off to his youngest mistress.

Bookmakers William Hill gave 7-to-4 odds on Ishiguro's novel about a butler's travels through Britain's west country, and said it was "a firm favourite" to win.

This year's six nominees were chosen from 102 books considered by a panel chaired by David Lodge, a British academic, literary critic and novelist who was nominated for the prize last year for his book, "Nice Work."

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Barco looks for justice minister

De Greiff was asked to resign

BOGOTA, Sept 23, (AP): President Virgilio Barco is searching for a justice minister to lead the fight against drug barons and his government is investigating reports there is a secret US list of Colombians linked to the cocaine cartels.

Barco yesterday accepted the resignation of Justice Minister Monica de Greiff, long rumoured to be quitting because of death threats by cocaine traffickers. He named Communications Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds only as a temporary replacement for her while continuing to search for a leading presidential candidate and outspoken foe of Colombia's drug barons.

Nearly 80 per cent of the cocaine in the United States is believed to come from Colombia, and the US government has given Barco more than \$65 million in aid for his government's crackdown on the drug trade.

But a letter sent yesterday from the Colombian government to the US embassy marked the first open division between the nations since the crackdown began.

The letter by Foreign Minister Julio Londoño Paredes came a day after Colombian news media published the names of 25 Colombians, including federal lawmakers, who are on an alleged blacklist of Colombians banned from the United States.

Londoño said the existence of such a list "without an adequate clarification and precise explanation, could generate a climate of undesirable relations between our two countries."

The contents of the letter, sent to US Charge d'Affaires Phillip McLain, was broadcast by the Colombian radio chain Caracol. Senators on the alleged list charged that they were being persecuted for disagreeing with US policy and calling for the legalisation of drugs.

After meeting with Londoño at the Foreign Ministry, McLain told reporters the United States does not "make lists of people who receive visas or don't receive visas because of social or political activities. There is no blacklist or list of any other colour."

In Washington, a US State Department spokesman said US embassies do have computer lists of foreign nationals involved in allegations of wrongdoing.

The spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, denied the Bogota embassy had a blacklist, but said the mission's visa officer considers any allegations in deciding whether to approve a visa application.

All applications have an opportunity to respond to the allegations, he said.

Barco said in a communique last night that De Greiff resigned as justice minister on Sept 14, but that he was just now accepting the resignation.

"The president thinks he needs another type of person in the ministry and he has every right to ask for my resignation," she said in a live broadcast interview yesterday.

The 32-year-old lawyer had served as justice minister since July 16 and was praised worldwide for her tough stand against cocaine traffickers, who had repeatedly threatened to kill her. De Greiff said she will return to the United States to be with her husband and son.

She also said she had turned down an offer by Barco to be an ambassador in Portugal.

The UN General Assembly will hold a special session next month on global efforts to battle drug trafficking, the head of the Security Council said yesterday. US President George Bush also is expected to discuss the drug menace in a scheduled speech to the General Assembly on Monday.

Nearly 73 per cent of the American people have been directly affected by the drug crisis and half have personally used drugs or have a family member who has, said a new poll out yesterday.

According to the Wall Street Journal/NBS News poll, a remarkable 43 per cent say that drugs are the nation's single most important issue; the next most frequently cited concern, the budget deficit, was named by only 6 per cent.

permanent justice minister. De Greiff said she resigned at Barco's request.

Two more bombs exploded last night in Bogota, one at a classified advertising office of the newspaper El Espectador, and the other at a substation of the government-owned telephone company, police said.

No injuries were reported in the blasts. Bombs have exploded almost daily since the government began a crackdown on drug traffickers following the assassination Aug 18 of Sen. Luis Carlos Galán, a



Asked to resign

COLOMBIAN Minister of Justice, Monica de Greiff, who became a symbol of defiance in Colombia's drug war, told a press conference that President Virgilio Barco had asked for her resignation. She presented her resignation on Sept 21. (Reuters wirephoto)

Officer found guilty

An anti-narcotics officer was found guilty of drug trafficking today and ordered hanged, the first senior Malaysian policeman to receive the death penalty on narcotics charges.

Assistant police superintendent Abu Bakar Omasa of the anti-narcotics division was arrested Feb 9 and authorities found 45 pounds (20 kg) of cannabis in his car.

In passing sentence Judge Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim told the court at the east coast town of Kuala Terengganu that he was convinced by the evidence of Abu Bakar's guilt.

Malaysian law mandates the death penalty for anyone found guilty of drug trafficking, which is defined as possession of half of ounce (14 grammes) or more of heroin or morphine, 2 pounds (5 kg) of opium or 7 ounces (200 grammes) of cannabis.

Abu Bakar, 38, looked stunned and said, "Allah," as the sentence was passed and was immediately surrounded by weeping relatives. (UPI)

Rangoon denies charges

A Burmese government spokesman yesterday denied charges by a US senator that Burma's drug suppression efforts were useless and that the money Washington provided for them was wasted.

Government spokesman Kyaw Senn rejected the charges as "a malicious fabrication aimed at discrediting the Burmese government."

Sen. Daniel Moynihan, a Democrat from New York, charged in a Sept 13 statement that the Rangoon government was corrupt and had no interest in eradicating opium production.

A study ordered by Moynihan from the US government's General Accounting Office found that in 1988 alone 1,280 tonnes of opium were produced in Burma, the statement said.

It said that was over 20 times the estimated 60 tonnes needed to make all the heroin consumed in the United States each year, despite Washington's \$80 million programme of assistance to Rangoon for drug eradication since 1974. (AP)

Greece to get tough

Greece joined a world-wide crackdown on drugs yesterday urging the European Economic Community to take tough measures against money laundering through EEC banks.

Premier Tsanis Tsannetakis said in a hard-hitting speech at a cabinet meeting that he will press the community to adopt strict controls enabling banks to curb the inflow of profits from drug dealers around the world.

"The drugs trade is part of a complex system, linking drug traffickers to arms dealers and terrorist organisation and suspect financiers who launder dirty money," Tsannetakis said.

"The government is resolved to take an active part in the international war against drugs," he added.

An EEC task force in Brussels is studying ways of tackling the problem of money laundering through community banks.

Greece is traditionally a transit point for hashish and heroin produced in Southeast Asia and the Far East and sold in Europe and the United States.

Police report that Greece is also part of a route to bring Latin American cocaine into northern Europe via Spain and Portugal. (AP)

Drug dealer lured near White House

WASHINGTON, Sept 23, (AP): The dealer who sold the crack cocaine President George Bush used as a prop in his Sept 5 nationally-televised speech on drugs didn't just happen to be across the street from the White House when he peddled it.

He was lured there so Bush could say that's where the sale took place.

But Bush said yesterday the circumstances don't matter.

"The man went there and sold drugs in front of the White House, didn't he?" The president told reporters after he toured a tree farm in Wells, Maine. "That's the bottom line. That's what the man did ... I can't feel sorry for this fellow."

Bush, holding up the bag, told the TV audience: "This is crack cocaine." He said it had been "seized a few days ago in a park across the street from the White House."

The \$2,400 transaction took place on Sept 1. Bush's press secretary, Martin Fitzwater, and the Drug Enforcement Administration admit that the drug dealer was manoeuvred into making a previously arranged sale in Lafayette Park, across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, rather than a few blocks further away.

A reporter suggested that the transaction wouldn't have taken place in the park had not the cocaine been wanted for Bush's speech.

"The message I got out of it (is) a man was busted in front of the White House and I cannot feel sorry for him ... he ought not to be out peddling these insidious drugs. It's ruining the children of this country."

The president said he'd asked for a drug sample "from that vicinity to show it can happen anywhere ... and that's what they gave me. And they told me where they caught this guy."

Throughout, Bush spoke as if the dealer, a teenager, had been arrested. Although his transaction with an undercover DEA agent was in custody, agents said, because they hoped he would sell a larger amount later and identify his organisation. A planned arrest earlier this week fell through when the suspect did not show up, and agents hope to obtain indictments against him.

Bush did not mention the circumstances behind the drug transaction in his speech when he held up a clear plastic bag labelled "evidence" containing a handful of crack nuggets.

Fitzwater told reporters: "We wanted to do a government sting. We said we wanted to make a buy in front of the White House. The DEA said, 'No problem.'"

"We told them that if a buy could be made near the White House, so much the better. They took us literally," said the official, asking not to be identified.

President Bush, snapping at critics yesterday, defended the undercover operation that lured a drug dealer to a park near the White House so agents could buy cocaine Bush used as a prop for a speech.

"I think it was great, because it sent a message to the United States that even across from the White House you can sell drugs Bush said.

The president also questioned the motivation of critics who challenged the sting operation, in which the drug dealer was paid for the cocaine and allowed to leave without being arrested.

President George Bush's plan for battling the drug trade is caught in a partisan battle in the senate, with Democrats trying to add money for drug-abuse treatment and Republicans arguing the revision would weaken the defence budget.

Hugo leaves nothing intact

CHARLESTON, South Carolina, Sept 23, (AP): Hurricane Hugo has devastated this historic and picturesque city, killed at least 18 people in the Carolinas and caused \$1 billion in damage.

South Carolina's Barrier Islands also were hit hard by the hurricane yesterday as houses were blown off their foundations and boats were pushed ashore, stacked along the beaches two and three deep.

"Garden City for all practical purposes is gone," said M.L. Love, a Horry county administrator who toured the elite resort community near Myrtle Beach.

President George Bush declared seven counties in South Carolina a federal disaster area, making them eligible for federal money to repair damage.

"It is the worst storm, the worst disaster, I've ever seen anywhere," said Gov. Carroll Campbell.

Hugo, downgraded to a tropical storm at 6 am (1000 GMT) yesterday, had lost all characteristics of a tropical storm and was weakening as it moved inland, although the system had maximum sustained winds of 40 miles (64 kilometres) per hour and torrential rains.

Federal officials gave the storm's last location as in western Pennsylvania, at latitude 40.5 degrees north and longitude 81 degrees west. They said there would be no further tracking.

Campbell toured his state yesterday by air, stopping to help some people who waved him down for help.

About 50 people in the small coastal community of McClellanville were stranded by the storm, and some were standing on top of cars and waving at the passing helicopter.

Campbell's helicopter landed in a nearby baseball field, and the governor made sure the people got help. "There are a lot of little places like that in this state that just got wiped out," Campbell said.

Eleven of the US deaths were in South Carolina, said Warren Hardy of the state's office of emergency preparedness. The South Carolina deaths included an elderly man found in the rubble of a house in Charleston, and a power company employee who was electrocuted yesterday as he worked to restore electricity. In North Carolina, a 6-month-old baby was killed when a tree fell on a house.

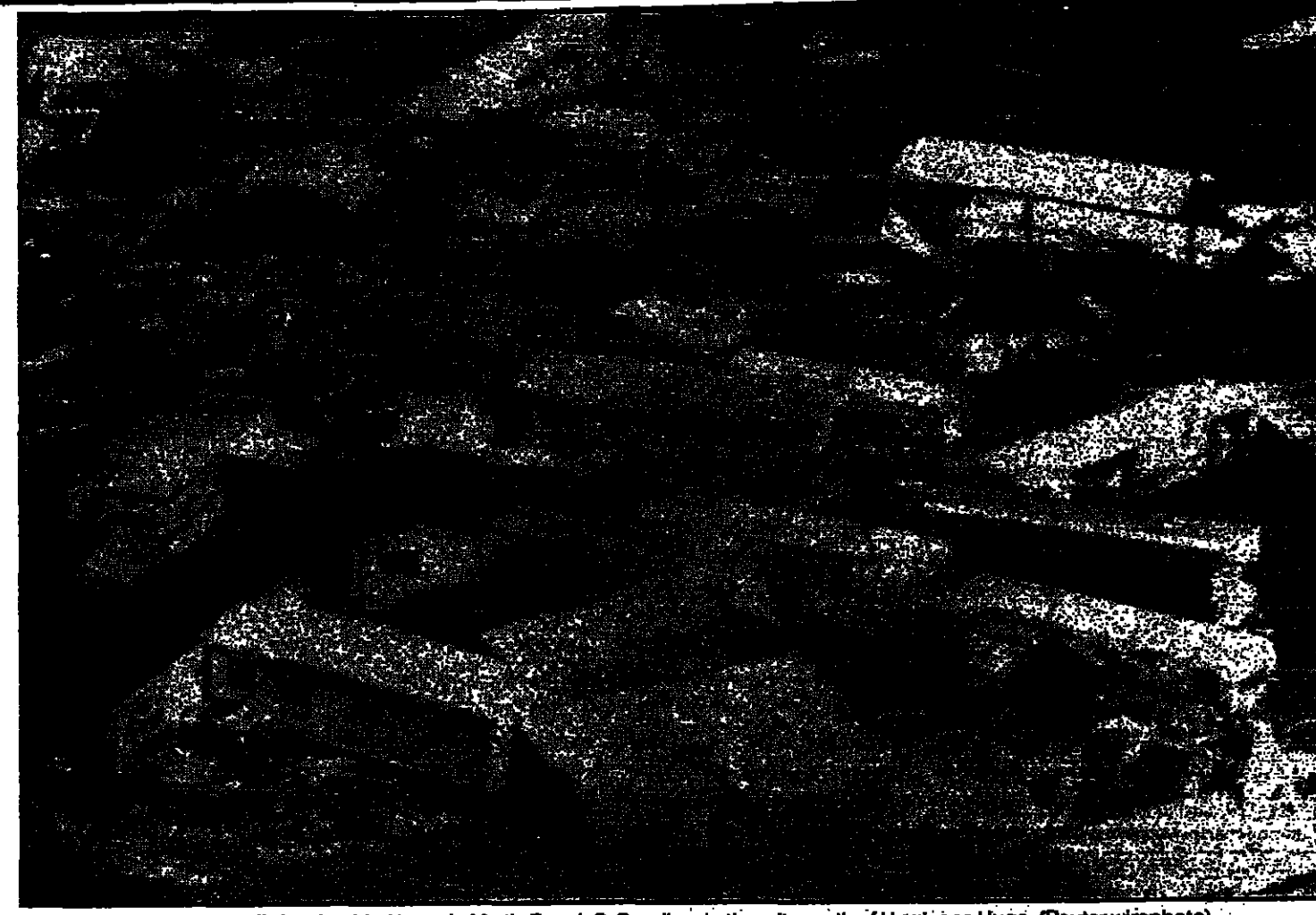
The centre of the storm advanced further west than expected, targeting eastern Ohio, western Pennsylvania and western New York before it was expected to wear itself out in Canada.

A hurricane is a heat engine fuelled by warm, moist air over open oceans. When these giant storms hit land, they lose their wallop, although they can still manage considerable bluster.

Charleston felt the full wrath of Hugo, which wrecked a string of Caribbean resort islands beginning early Sunday before bearing down on the United States. As many as 27 people were killed in the Caribbean, and 50,000 were left homeless.

"There's just destruction everywhere," said Mayor Joseph P. Riley, who imposed an overnight curfew to prevent looting. He called it a "disaster of extraordinary dimensions."

Riley estimated damage at \$1 billion in the city of 65,000 people.



Mobile houses lie in a jumbled heap in Myrtle Beach S. Carolina, in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo. (Reuters wirephoto)



Personal belongings can be seen in the rooms of condos which had their roofs blown off. (Reuters wirephoto)



Pleasure boats tossed around at the marina on the Isle of Palms. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fit to be 'tied'

WILMINGTON, North Carolina, Sept 23, (AP): Constance Bland had heard all the horror stories about what could go wrong in the days before her wedding.

But in her wildest dreams she never expected her groom to be in a plane crash. Or a hurricane to wipe out both her honeymoon plans and the hotel arrangements for out-of-town guests.

Having further disaster today's wedding will go on.

"I'm not stressed out right now, there's no way I could handle planning this again," Miss Bland said late Thursday as Hurricane Hugo approached the South Carolina coast. "I can just walk down that aisle with 10 people in the church. I'll be happy."

Her fiancé, Tom Newberry, a New York city banker, was a passenger on the Unk-jetliner that plunged into New York's East River late Wednesday after an aborted takeoff from La Guardia airport. Two women were killed. The plane had been en route to Charlotte.

Newberry, 27, survived the crash and was reportedly driving to Wilmington for the wedding.

Newberry crawled out of the wrecked plane and clung to a piling in the water with other passengers until rescuers arrived.

"He said they sang 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat,' trying to stay calm," Miss Bland said.

About 45 minutes after the Blands first heard about the crash, Newberry called them. Miss Bland said he assured her he was unharmed, but she thought he was in shock. All he could talk about was his baggage.

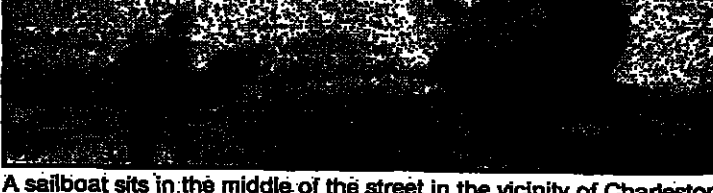
Newberry's passport and his tuxedo rest somewhere at the bottom of the East River. But the wedding will go on.

"We thought about calling it off, but with so many people coming down here, I just don't think any sense could take it," Miss Bland said.

About 225 guests are expected. Miss Bland's mother says most of Thursday trying to find hotel rooms for the 50 guests who had planned to check into a hotel at Wrightsville Beach, which was ordered evacuated as Hugo approached.

The storm caused little damage at Wrightsville beach, where the family plans to hold a reception dinner.

As for the honeymoon — which had been booked for the British Virgin Islands — "I suggested Iowa," Miss Bland said.



A sailboat sits in the middle of the street in the vicinity of Charleston Yacht Club. (Reuters wirephoto)

Troops restore order in St Croix

Looting stops: jail escapees rounded up

CHRISTIANSTED, St. Croix, Sept 23, (Reuters): US troops began patrolling the streets of this devastated island yesterday as local police rounded up escaped criminals who were reported to have joined in a wave of looting and civil unrest after hurricane Hugo struck.

As Hugo slammed into the south Carolina coast 1,000 miles (1,600 km) to the north, order was restored to St. Croix in the US Virgin Island chain. Authorities said there had been no reports of violence or looting since Thursday.

In the centre of Christiansted, soldiers armed with M-16 rifles stood guard near shops that were picked clean during two days of virtual anarchy that followed Hugo's direct hit on the island on Monday.

"We're here to protect public and private property," said Army Lieutenant-Colonel Ned Longworth.

Local authorities said it was unclear whether the looting had ended because of the show of military force or simply because there was nothing left to steal.

President George Bush ordered 1,100 troops to the island on Wednesday after amateur radio transmission and news reports told of armed gangs roaming the streets, a breakdown in local law enforcement and frightened tourists and residents pleading for help.

Most of the troops had arrived, and two Navy frigates were standing by offshore.

By last evening, police had recaptured only 60 of some 220 inmates who escaped from a St. Croix prison when the hurricane hit and were reported to have

taken part in the crime spree, according to law-enforcement officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Some 140 escapees were still at large and 20 were allowed to remain free on parole, the officials said.

St. Croix officials said some of the looting was done by poor people who were desperate for goods to help them survive after Hugo damaged or destroyed most of the homes on the island of 55,000 people.

A few white residents said racial tensions had played a part in the violence. St. Croix's population is 50 per cent black, 30 per cent Puerto Rican and 20 per cent white.

Islanders said they were concerned that it would take years to restore St. Croix's battered image and bring tourists back.

Local officials complained yesterday that the Virgin Islands remained without any major US relief five days after the devastation caused by hurricane Hugo, even though federal forces were sent to control civil disorder.

Gov. Derek Hodge, the No. 2 official announced yesterday that Hugo left homeless about 90 per cent of St. Croix's population, or more than 45,000 people.

Hodge said damage was tentatively estimated at \$4 billion. Most Puerto Ricans remained without running water yesterday and 20,000 were still housed in shelters four days after hurricane Hugo blew across the island.

As Hugo moved inland and weakened yesterday, forecasters said it was all but certain to join the billion-dollar club — a list of history's most destructive storms.

Duarte survives latest crisis, baffles physicians

SAN SALVADOR, Sept 23, (Agencies): Jose Napoleon Duarte's doctor said the former Salvadoran president has overcome a bout with pneumonia that, because of his debilitating cancer, nearly killed him.

"The threat of imminent death has disappeared," Dr Jose Luis Saca, Duarte's personal physician, said late yesterday.

Duarte, who has been battling liver cancer for 15 months, was close to death three times earlier in the week, Saca said.

The doctor had predicted Wednesday and Thursday that Duarte, 63, was likely to live for only a

matter of hours, and said it would take "a miracle" to save him.

"That man is some other kind of human being than myself or myself," said Saca late yesterday, referring to Duarte's dramatic improvement. "It is incredible. I can't explain it."

However, the former president is still considered terminally ill. When his cancer was diagnosed in June 1988, doctors gave him between six and 18 months to live.

Duarte, a civil engineer turned politician, was president from 1984 until last June 1 and was Washington's staunchest ally in the Western hemis-

phere.

He handed power to Alfredo Cristiani of the rightist Republican Nationalist Alliance, which trounced Duarte's Christian Democrats in March voting.

Duarte has terminal stomach and liver cancer and after a setback early this week Saca said on Wednesday that Duarte probably had only hours to live.

A local priest on Thursday gave him the last rites and Duarte, surrounded by family members, said farewell to his closest friends and former aides.

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Middle East is not a top priority in superpower talks

WASHINGTON, Sept 23, (Kuna): Although it will be tackled by regional experts, the Middle East is not a top priority at present in the Wyoming talks between the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his American counterpart James Baker, according to both American and Soviet officials here yesterday.

American officials at the State Department dealing with the Middle East and Soviet embassy officials here told Kuna in background briefings that arms control issues and the possibility of a US-Soviet summit early next year are the two main preoccupations of Shevardnadze and Baker during the current talks in Wyoming.

The Middle East will be the subject of more detailed discussions at the regional experts group, however, according to these officials, who insisted on anonymity.

But even within the specialised regional group on the Middle East, headed by Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East John Kelly and Policy Planning Director Dennis Ross, there seems to be little agreement on the approach to the key conflicts — the election plan in the occupied territories and Lebanon, according to officials from both sides.

One State Department official, speaking on

background, told Kuna, "the talks we held here earlier this week indicated to us that the Soviets are not ready to back the Israeli election plan the way we would like them to... in other words, they have not put their full weight behind it as the only way out of the current deadlock."

The official, who specialises in Middle East affairs, said that "in essence, our impression is that the Soviets would still prefer to go through the route of the international conference. To us, this means that they are not using their influence with the PLO, for example, to back President Mubarak's 10-point proposals so that we can proceed with the practical

aspects of holding elections in the occupied territories."

The Soviet embassy officials agreed with that American assessment of the Soviet position.

"One of our basic disagreements with the administration is that they have put their eggs in the election basket. To them, that is the only game in town."

"To us, both the Israeli election plan and the Soviet proposals are lacking two basic ingredients essential to the Palestinians: first, there is an attempt to bypass the PLO in every way and means, and second, there is a categorical rejection of the

principle of self-determination for the Palestinians."

"The Soviet Union believes that there can be no progress in any peace negotiations without a recognition of these two basic principles by both Washington and Tel Aviv," the official emphasised.

The Soviet official implicitly faulted Egypt for pushing its own ten-point proposals without insisting on the principle of self-determination for the Palestinians.

One State Department official said that at the talks in Washington held earlier this week between the Middle East experts from both sides, the US sought to convince the Soviets to agree to a joint

statement at the end of the Wyoming talks expressing support for the election plan and the 10-point Egyptian proposals.

In their talks with this Kuna correspondent, however, officials from both sides showed there was more of a convergence of views on a need for and ways of solving the Lebanese crisis.

The reason, according to these American and Soviet officials is that both Moscow and Washington have given their full-fledged support to the Arab League's tripartite committee's proposals of last week.

Beijing will stick to its policies

BEIJING, Sept 23, (AP): China will continue pursuing reforms, but only those that enhance the Communist Party and improve socialism, party chief Jiang Zemin said.

A front-page editorial in the People's Daily, the party newspaper, also assured the continuation of the open-door policy while maintaining the need to follow the party's directives.

The paper said China's goals are to develop socialism and liberate productive forces, which can be achieved only through the open-door policy.

"This cannot be done unless the closed-door system is destroyed and the ossified ways changed," it said. "We must never return to the old, closed system."

Jiang's statement as made at a meeting of local party organisations and model party workers attended by other top leaders, including Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The People's Daily editorial acknowledged that there are worries in China and abroad that the crackdown on dissent, with its renewed emphasis on ideology and campaign against Western liberal ideas, could mean an end to the past decade of reform and open-door policies.

Jiang said that the party had made mistakes but already has corrected them. He did not elaborate on what the party's mistakes were.

The People's Daily made it clear that the reform and open door policies supported by China's leaders does not mean the nation would become capitalist or adopt Western, or bourgeois, ideas.

The editorial said that while maintaining the general policy of reform and opening up, China's leaders could change specific policies or methods.

The comments were similar to those made on Wednesday by Li Ruihuan, a member of the Politburo Standing Committee, to officials of three Hong Kong newspapers.

While stressing the need to attack "bourgeois liberalism" or Western liberal ideas, Li cautioned against taking it to an extreme.

Senior leader Deng Xiaoping also has sought to reassure the outside world that China would stick to its reform policies, but also said it was necessary to give greater emphasis to ideology.

"Twists and turns or short-comings are unavoidable, but we believe those who adhere to these policies will eventually win success," he said last week to visiting American physicist T.D. Lee.

The Chinese refugees who fled the violent suppression of pro-democracy movement joined fellow Chinese from around the world yesterday to establish a new opposition in exile aimed at continuing the battle begun on Tiananmen square.

The three-day meeting of the Federation for Democracy in China, held at the Sorbonne, Paris, opened with a moment of silence to honour pro-democracy demonstrators who died June 3-4 when soldiers marched on Beijing to crush the student-led movement. Hundreds, and perhaps thousands, were killed.

"Bringing democracy to China requires that we battle together, shoulder-to-shoulder," said Wu'er Kaixi, the charismatic 21-year-old Beijing University student who last spring delivered compelling speeches to his peers on Tiananmen Square. "Our strength continues, we are hopeful."



Khaki-clad supporters of South Africa's neo-fascist Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) wave the flag of their white supremacist party alongside the colours of Nazi Germany during a rally. (Reuters wirephoto)

Day of protests

Scores arrested in Pretoria

PRETORIA, Sept 23, (Agencies): Scuffles erupted between white extremists and blacks on the streets of the capital today and scores of women were arrested, as police juggled old habits with President Frederik de Klerk's call for a "totally changed South Africa."

In a tense and chaotic day for police, demonstrators, bystanders and reporters authorities allowed two rallies by white extremists to proceed because they sought and received official approval but banned an anti-apartheid march by women because they had not.

At church square beneath the statue of Afrikaner hero Paul Kruger 500 khaki-clad members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), waving swastika-like flags and banners held a rally to condemn De Klerk for his alleged capitulation to the black majority.

Scattered scuffles broke out when fist-throwing AWB members charged into crowds of black bystanders gathered on the perimeter of the square. Police used batons to disperse the blacks. Others were arrested and bundled into police vans where they sang freedom songs and raised clenched fists en route to

the police station. And in what seemed to underscore the confusion, a number of reporters and camera crew were arrested at the site of the AWB rally, which had court approval. They were charged with attending an illegal gathering after the scuffles broke out.

Two buses, carrying Winnie Mandela, wife of imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, and other blacks were chased through the streets by about 25 yellow police vehicles with sirens screaming and lights flashing. The police stopped the buses and ordered Mrs Mandela and the other occupants to leave Pretoria.

"We came here peacefully but they are seeking violence," Mrs Mandela told the US television network CBS. "It is the same as any other country in the world. People can't break the law," said Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, standing among riot police behind the barbed wire that blocked the entrance to St Albans's Anglican cathedral.

A two-page notice was tacked to the door of the church, saying the government obtained a court order to stop a church service and the planned march to the union

buildings. Two tear gas cannon trucks were parked nearby and hundreds of police lined the streets as the city centre came to a standstill.

De Klerk, who announced a relaxation of three-year-old emergency regulations to allow "peaceful" anti-apartheid protests, has called for power-sharing negotiations with black leaders as part of his plan to end the country's racial crisis and create a "totally changed South Africa."

His announcement has triggered a flurry of protests across the country, including one by some 1,000 blacks at church square earlier this week.

AWB leader Eugene Terre-Blanche denounced the "desecration" of the square, a citadel of Afrikaner nationalism, by the black marchers. He also scolded the government for banning the use of whips by riot police dealing with anti-apartheid protesters.

The African National Congress, the main guerrilla group fighting to end white rule in South Africa, has dismissed President F.W. de Klerk's pledges of reform and called for continued use of violence against the Pretoria government.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Defence agreement: India and Hungary today signed an agreement for co-operation in the field of defence.

Under the agreement Hungary will import sophisticated defence electronic equipment from India and consider India's future requirements for defence equipment.

The agreement was signed by Hungarian Defence Minister Gen. Ferenc Karpathi and the officials of the Indian Defence Ministry after six days of official-level talks.

Gen. Karpathi concluded his six-day official visit to India today. (Kuna)

March to raise cash: Campaigners will be on the march in eight British cities tomorrow to raise cash for their fight to ban laboratory tests on animals, it was reported today.

An 80,000 pounds target has been set for the 10-mile sponsored walks organised by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV).

Almost 2,000 people, including several members of parliament, had already registered to take part in the walks, but the organisers expect many more will turn up. (Kuna)

Soldiers of fortune gathering: Platoons of mercenaries are shopping for exotic weaponry and fighting fashions, taking tutorials on world terrorism and swapping war stories at the 10th annual soldiers of fortune convention.

At the start of the three-day gathering yesterday, conventioners dozed out in berets, flak jackets and camouflage pants sat around the pool of the Sahara Hotel amid bikini-clad sunbathers. Others drank and gambled with civilians at the bars and slot machines. (AP)

Unexpected arrival: Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi has surfaced unexpectedly in Morocco for his second visit in four weeks amid signs that King Hassan has revived a mediating role in attempts to end Angola's 15-year-long civil war.

Savimbi, who heads rightist Unita rebels backed by the United States and South Africa, was received by the Moroccan monarch at his seaside palace outside Rabat yesterday, official sources said.

No details emerged about the talks, also attended by the king's top advisers. (Reuters)

Youth group dissolved: The Greek Communist Party faced a rebellion yesterday after it dissolved the leadership of its hardline youth group for opposing the official party line to continue support of a right-left governing alliance.

A plenary session of the Greek Communist Party's (KKE) central committee Thursday night dissolved the Communist Youth (KNE) central council after it expressed support for a rebel faction.

The rebels had opposed the party's co-operation with Eurocommunists in a leftist coalition and for its support of a government made up mainly of the conservative New Democracy Party. (AP)

Autobahn pileup: Five chain-reaction pileups involving at least 265 vehicles on autobahns in Bavaria left 16 people with serious injuries early today, police and radio reports said.

Bavarian police said heavy fog and excessive speed were responsible for the accidents. At least 150 vehicles were involved in two separate accidents on the autobahn between Nuremberg and Würzburg. Thirty piled up in one direction on the Munich-Nuremberg autobahn, and 60 more were involved in wrecks going in the opposite direction. (AP)

Soviet offer breaks arms talks impasse

On-site inspection accord also neared

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming, Sept 23, (Agencies): The Soviet Union has broken an impasse in talks on reducing arsenals of nuclear weapons by dropping its demand that restrictions first be imposed on a US anti-missile defence system, a senior US official says.

The announcement of the breakthrough came late yesterday at the end of a day of talks led by US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in which they also neared agreement on an accord to open each other's underground nuclear tests to on-site inspection.

The foreign ministers were concluding their talks at the Rocky Mountain lodge today amid high expectations that they would set a target date for a summit between President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The foreign secretaries also made progress toward several other arms control agreements they were expected to sign before heading to New York tomorrow for a UN General Assembly meeting.

A senior US official, speaking on condition that he not be further identified, said the Soviet agreement to separate negotiations on the space-based missile defence system and a strategic arms reduction treaty breaks a four-day deadlock.

The US official stressed "the need to clarify" the Soviet position, but said, "this looks like a positive development."

Many lesser points of disagreement remain in the proposed 450-page Start agreement, but resolution of the space defence issue could accelerate negotiations on a pact to reduce superpower nuclear arsenals by 30 per cent to 50 per cent, the official said.

Until now, said the official, "the Soviets have said they would not want to enter into a Start agreement until there was an understanding on defence in space."

A Soviet spokesman, Boris Malakhov, said there would be no immediate Soviet response to the US comments.

The agreement providing for on-site inspections of nuclear tests would clear the way for Senate ratification of two US-Soviet treaties that were signed in 1974 and 1976. The pacts have been observed by both sides, but they have never agreed on how to monitor compliance with them.

Details on the agreements were left to be resolved after yesterday's session, said a second senior US official.

The other issues that were ready or near completion were:

- A protocol on determining the size of superpower chemical weapons stockpiles, which would help negotiators complete a multilateral convention to stop production of such arms.
- An umbrella agreement covering verification of the means of counting weapons to be eliminated under a Start agreement.
- A pact under which the two sides would give each other prior notification of strategic exercises involving weapons which in wartime would threaten the other.

■ A statement to expand the superpower human rights dialogue from emigration issues to cover revisions in the Soviet criminal code, occupational health and the environment.

■ A pact to lift the so-called "ice curtain" that since 1948 has prevented Alaskan Eskimos from visiting their distant relatives in Soviet Siberia.

■ Soviet officials have given the United States a list of 40 people they say are political prisoners and should be freed.

■ Referring to Gorbachev's "perestroika" programme for political, social and economic renewal, he said it had gone far further and faster than any of us had imagined.

"I wanted to express my very strong support for the historic changes which are taking place in the Soviet Union under his leadership."

Thatcher's note of optimism comes at a time when Gorbachev faces swelling popular discontent over his failure to revive the flagging Soviet economy which has left the country bereft of food and many basic goods.

Thatcher said Gorbachev had briefed her in detail about the coming parliamentary session starting Monday. Much of that session will be devoted to plans to

reduce the budget deficit and boost food and consumer good production.

British officials said about half the morning session had been devoted to internal Soviet affairs and developments in Eastern Europe with much of the remainder on arms control. The talks had also touched on bilateral relations and human rights.

The two sides also were reported near an agreement on inspection of each other's underground nuclear test sites.

Tass said Soviet concerns being raised in the talks with Thatcher include her support for Western plans to modernise short-range nuclear weapons. It said the Soviet side also would ask about European plans to create a single market in 1992, and bring up the issues of co-operating on ecological problems and economic joint ventures.

Thatcher's personal relationship with Gorbachev is warm, even though she often cites the threat posed by Soviet military power.

Relations between Britain and the Soviet Union were strained several months ago when the British expelled 12 Soviet journalists and diplomats, saying they had spied.

But Tass said today that "these differences should not be viewed as an obstacle to the development of relations between the two nations."

Taste of Gorbys

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (left) picks (centre) and his wife Raisa look on before lunch in up a glass as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Moscow. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pope meets mafia

VOLTERRA, Italy, Sept 23, (Reuters): Pope John Paul shook hands with some of Italy's most hardened mafia gangsters today during a visit to a top-security jail.

The Pope, who is on three-day visit to Tuscany, met the men in a forbidding hilltop fortress built by the Medici family in the 15th century and converted into a jail in 1848.

Many of the inmates the Pope greeted in a courtyard surrounded by medieval turrets were jailed for serious mafia crimes, including murder, prison officials said.

Some stood unmoved but applauded politely as the white-robed pontiff walked among them. Others succumbed to emotion despite the presence of their hardened cellmates and bent to kiss the papal ring.

Co-operation in drug fighting

ROME, Sept 23, (Agencies): Turkey and Italy agreed yesterday to increase co-operation in fighting drug smuggling and international terrorism following talks between the countries' interior ministers.

Turkey's Interior Minister, Abdulkadir Aksu, and his Italian counterpart, Antonio Gava, announced at a joint news conference that a working committee would exchange information about these issues on a more regular basis.

Gava said drugs smuggled to Italy and Austria from Asian countries were carried via Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece and Yugoslavia.

UK supports Soviet reform

Gorbys, Maggie stay pallies

MOSCOW, Sept 23, (Agencies): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher pledged strong support for the Soviet reform process today and declared her faith in President Mikhail Gorbachev's ability to lead the country to economic prosperity.

Thatcher told a news conference after four hours of talks with the Kremlin leader that the meeting was another milestone in the dialogue between them since 1984.

"During that period, enormous changes have taken place in the Soviet Union, leading to greater political liberty and the prospect of real prosperity for the ordinary people," she said.

Referring to Gorbachev's "perestroika" programme for political, social and economic renewal, she said it had gone far further and faster than any of us had imagined.

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"Uranium seven" released

TOKYO, Sept 23, (AP): Prosecutors have released seven people arrested after they tried to sell uranium to the US embassy in Tokyo at 2,000 times its market price, Japanese newspapers reported.

The seven were among 11 Japanese detained earlier this month for possessing the radioactive substance, the mass-circulation Nihon Keizai Shimbun said yesterday.

The report said the group brought a capsule containing about 100 grammes (3.5 ounces) of uranium to the embassy and offered to sell for 12 billion yen (\$82.6 million).

The transaction was never carried out.

The newspaper said prosecutors released the seven because Japanese nuclear safety laws provide no penalties for individual possession or transfer of uranium. It said the law aimed at corporations to ensure the safe supply of materials used to make nuclear fuel.



Vietnamese soldiers sit in a cramped bus with Cambodian and Vietnamese (star) flags awaiting a long trip home. (Reuters wirephoto)

Warring Cambodian parties agree to talks, says Thai premier

BANGKOK, Sept 23, (AP): With the threat of worsening civil war in Cambodia as Vietnam's troops head home, the country's warring factions have agreed to meet once more to try to negotiate peace, the Thai prime minister said today.

Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan said that after meetings in the past two weeks with leaders of Cambodia's three guerrilla factions and Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen, all the parties had agreed to future talks.

But the time and place of the talks had yet to be settled, he said.

"We cannot let the Cambodian fighting go on any longer. If a civil war happens, Thailand will have to bear a

greater burden of Cambodian refugees," Chatichai said.

He said Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the resistance coalition, had suggested the meeting be held in Bangkok, Jakarta, Indonesia, or Paris.

Chatichai said he favoured the Indonesian capital, where the last two informal meetings between the factions were held.

Paris was the site last month of an international conference that failed to find a solution to the Cambodian war. Among the participants were the four warring groups.

Sihanouk suggested the new talks include the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, France, Vietnam, and the four Cambodian factions. He would

attend too, he said.

Chatichai said Sihanouk urged that the meeting concentrate on the formation of an international control body in Cambodia.

The international body proposed by the guerrillas would be responsible for verifying Vietnam's withdrawal from Cambodia and supervising a ceasefire and the deployment of a peacekeeping force.

Vietnam says the last of its troops, which invaded Cambodia in late 1978 to oust the Khmer Rouge and install a sympathetic government, will be out of the country by midnight Sept 26. But the guerrillas contend Hanoi will leave thousands behind disguised as Cambodians.

هكذا من يرحل

Police hunt for IRA bombers

Hit team 'stalked'

LONDON, Sept 23, (Agencies): Police said today they were checking seaside vacation homes near a royal marine base in the east coast town of Deal to see whether one was used by a suspected IRA hit squad in the deadliest bomb attack on a military target in England since 1974.

As forensic experts sifted through the rubble of a flattened recreation hall, police released the names of 10 band members killed in an explosion while taking morning coffee at the Royal Marine School of Music. Twelve others were being treated for wounds in local hospitals.

Local residents and families of the victims left a pile of floral wreaths outside the main gates of the base. One carried the message: "Jesus knows."



Bomb victims honoured

John Fitzgerald, 11, from Deal, kneels by flowers placed at the Royal Marine School of Music, scene of yesterday's IRA bomb explosion which killed at least 10 and injured 22 others. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hungary to make up for misdeeds

BUDAPEST, Sept. 23, (Agencies): Hungary's reform-minded government said yesterday it will compensate thousands of former political prisoners and remove Communist Party red stars from all public buildings.

Council of Ministers spokesman Zsolt Bajnok said the government hoped to replace the stars either with a national flag or the Hungarian coat of arms by the end of the year.

"This change creates no legal problem, because there was no legislation on the use of party symbols," he told a news conference.

Bajnok also announced pension bonuses for people interned or exiled in Stalinist purges during the 1940s and 1950s.

An estimated 23,000 survivors of some 98,000 people interned or exiled to rural areas between 1945 and 1953 will get an extra 500 forints (\$9.30) in pension from November 1.

They will also be allowed to include years spent in detention in the period of work assessed for pension payments.

"The average time of exile was 27 months, but the suffering because of torture and other illegal procedures cannot be measured by time or by other means," Bajnok said.

Thousands of Hungarians interned after Soviet troops crushed the 1956 uprising against Soviet domination will also be eligible for compensation, back-dated for six months from Oct. 1.

They will receive a monthly bonus of 500 forints plus supplements for every additional year spent in prison. Spouses of dead former internees can claim half the new bonuses.

The Hungarian Supreme Court is to review the trial of the late Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty who was sentenced to life in prison on trumped up charges of treason, a government spokesman said yesterday.

The government decision to present the case to the Supreme Court is considered to amount to a posthumous rehabilitation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Solidarity activist picked: Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki today named a Solidarity activist who specialises in Soviet affairs to head the committee that controls state television and radio, the official news agency announced.

Andrzej Drawicz, 57, a journalist and former political prisoner, will take over the chairmanship of the radio and television committee from the former government spokesman Jerzy Urban, the PAP agency said.

The appointment is considered one of the most important for the East bloc's first non-Communist-led government. It removes control of the mass media from the Communist Party in Poland for the first time since World War II. (AP)

Students association registered: The Independent Students Association, the last of the pro-Solidarity organisations banned after the 1981 martial law crackdown, was legally registered yesterday by the supreme court.

The court backed away from a stance that students do not have a right to strike, a right the association claims in its charter. The provision had blocked legalisation of the association even after Solidarity's legality was restored in April.

The long-awaited announcement came in a small courtroom packed with more than 100 spectators and was greeted with chants of "NYS, NYS," the Polish initials for the group. (AP)

Plan to unite: Independent groups in this crisis-ridden communist country say they plan to unite in a coalition to push for a multiparty system, a newspaper said yesterday.

The daily Borba said representatives of the Croatian Liberal-Socialist Union, the Social-Democratic Union of Slovenia and the Belgrade's Solidarity Fund met in Zagreb earlier this month to discuss details for the planned alliance, to be called "Yugoslavia's Democratic Coalition."

Dusan Bogavac, president of the Solidarity Fund, headed the effort to unite the country's opposition groups. Borba said. (AP)

Pope-Gorbachev meeting discussed: The Vatican confirmed yesterday that a Roman Catholic church official had met with the Soviet ambassador to Italy to discuss a possible meeting between the Pope and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Josquin Navarro, the Vatican spokesman, confirmed a newspaper report that Archbishop Angelo Sodano of the Vatican's Secretariat of State had gone to the Soviet embassy in Rome about 10 days earlier to meet Ambassador Nikolai Lukov.

Navarro emphasised that Vatican officials had a practice of meeting periodically with Soviet representatives, either in Italy, the Soviet Union or at international meetings. (AP)

Bomb explodes: A bomb exploded under the car of a journalist on the Italian island yesterday, destroying several vehicles but injuring no one, police said.

The car destroyed by the bomb was parked in front of the Alghero house of Gianni Oliani, a reporter for the daily "La Nuova Sardegna," based in nearby Sassari in northwestern Sardinia.

Several other cars were damaged and windows of nearby buildings were blown out by the early morning blast, police said. (AP)

Sentenced for bomb plot: Co-founder of a group opposed to immigration was sentenced to one year in prison yesterday for plotting to bomb a refugee centre in Norway, news reports said.

Arne Myrdal, 53, called his conviction "absurd" and "a political judgement," according to the Norwegian news agency NTB. He is expected to appeal.

Conservatives end meet

China criticised

TOKYO, Sept. 23, (Reuters): The leaders of 19 conservative parties ended their International Democrat Union (IDU) meeting today, accusing China of oppressing pro-democracy movements and in particular student demonstrators in the June 4 Tiananmen Square incident in Beijing.

A statement after the three-day meeting expressed grave concern over a setback to China's political and economic reforms following the incident.

It supported sanctions against China including a ban on visits to Beijing by government officials and restrictions on loans.

The conservative leaders including Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, US Vice-President Dan Quayle and Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, exchanged views on East-West relations, the world economy, terrorism and the environment.

Referring to East-West relations, the statement said adequate defence and the doctrine of nuclear deterrence must be maintained while declaring positive support for democratic power in Eastern Europe.

The IDU, formed in London in 1963, meets twice a year.

It was the deadliest bomb attack on the military in England since 12 soldiers were killed and 14 injured on a bus near Leeds in February 1974. Two bombs planted in London parks in 1982 killed 11 soldiers and wounded 50.

The Times and the Daily Mail said police were seeking three young Irishmen who were believed to have rented a vacation home near the base. Officials acknowledged a bomb may have been slipped into the marine barracks during a disco party at the base on Thursday evening.

"Obviously we have to check everything, there are a number of holiday homes outside the base and it is possible that one or more of them could have been rented out to transient persons," a police spokesman told United Press International.

"But they all have to be carefully scrutinised before we can come up with any theory," he said.

He added that all suspect homes in the quiet seaside town of 40,000 people, located 75 miles (120 km) southeast of London near Dover, would be sealed until experts had completed their checks.

The official cautioned that, more than 24 hours after the blast, "we are 99 per cent sure it was probably a bomb that exploded (but) have yet to find firm evidence of the cause of this tragedy."

Times said police and security officials "were considering the possibility that an IRA active service unit known to be based on the continent might have come to Britain on a cross-channel ferry."

Senior police officials, however, declined to discuss theories on how a bomb could have been planted by the outlawed Irish Republican Army, which for years has been fighting a guerrilla war to oust British troops from Northern Ireland and reunite it with the predominantly Catholic Irish Republic.

The explosion, for which the IRA claimed responsibility, occurred about 8:30 am on Friday in a recreation hall of the barracks while marine band members were having a coffee break between practice sessions.

The roof of the two-storey complex was lifted into the air and crashed back onto the building which collapsed like a deck of cards in an explosion so powerful that it broke windows and damaged roofs of nearby homes within a radius of 300 yards.

The British government faced sharp criticism for using unarmed private security guards to defend the royal marine base.

Defence Secretary Tom King defended the use of private firms to guard bases, saying it freed soldiers to perform other duties.

But he said he had ordered an urgent review of British armed forces security around the world.

Czechs chase Germans; 3 drown

BUDAPEST, Sept. 23, (Agencies): Czechoslovakia has admitted that its border guards chased fleeing East German refugees across the border into Hungary and pledged not to let it happen again, the Hungarian Communist Party newspaper Nepszabadsag said today.

Guards chased 16 East Germans who jumped out of cars at Rusovce, near Bratislava, and rushed across the border barrier to Rajka in Hungary. One East German man was beaten.

Colonel Tibor Vides, commander of the border guards for the western region of Győr, told the newspaper that after Hungary protested over the incident Czechoslovakia apologised and said such incidents would not recur.

He said three East Germans had drowned while seeking to cross illegally from Czechoslovakia to Hungary by swimming the River Danube.

West German border police said many refugees arriving in the West reported increasing difficulty in making it into Hungary, with Czechoslovak police turning them back at the border with Hungary.

A total of 951 have crossed the border illegally since the Warsaw Pact allies since Budapest opened its western frontier with Austria on Sept. 10 to let East Germans pass freely to the West. Of these, 265 swam the Danube.

Austrian police said more than 19,000 East Germans have crossed into Austria from Hungary since Sept. 10, including 595 who arrived in the past 24 hours.

West German border police said 403 more East German refugees streamed into West Germany early today bringing the total to more than 18,000.

They said that despite hard-line Czechoslovakia's sharpening of border controls in an effort to help East Germany curb the exodus, the refugee flow into West Germany was holding generally steady at a few hundred a day.

Pro-democracy activists from East Germany said yesterday the country's citizens might revolt violently if hard-line leaders failed to implement reforms for more freedom and better living conditions.

The ruling Communist Party's chief strategist suggested there should be fewer shackles on freedom of expression, a possible sign of divisions within the party itself.

A day earlier, the government banned a prominent reform organisation — Neues Forum, or New Forum — for what it called anti-state policies.

East German leader Erich Honecker has recovered sufficiently from gallbladder surgery to let him resume work next week, Western sources in East Berlin said.

Honecker, 77, underwent gallbladder surgery in mid-August and has not been seen in public since. Reports had said he was critically ill, which East Germany denied.

The Soviet Union yesterday denied giving Hungary the go-ahead to let thousands of East Germans flee to the West.

The number of East Germans taking refuge at Bonn's embassy in Prague swelled to over 700 today and an emissary of East German leader Erich Honecker flew to West Germany for talks on the crisis.

1940 vote to join USSR annulled

Lithuanians challenge

MOSCOW, Sept. 23, (Reuters): The Lithuanian Parliament today dismissed as invalid a 1940 vote on Lithuania joining the Soviet Union, in the most serious challenge so far to the legitimacy of Soviet rule in the three Baltic republics.

Local journalists told Reuters the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, or parliament, dismissed the vote while formally adopting a special commission report that also denounced the Soviet Red Army occupation of Lithuania in 1940.

"It was approved quickly and almost unanimously," a local journalist said by telephone from the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, where the proceedings were being broadcast live.

The parliamentary commission's report was published in official local newspapers on Aug. 22, the eve of a massive demonstration by more than a million Balts against the secret Nazi-Soviet deal that ended their independent statehood.

On Tuesday, Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev told a Communist Party central committee meeting there was no reason to doubt the Baltic republics joined the Soviet Union of their own free will.

In his speech on the opening day of a special plenum on nationalities issues, Gorbachev condemned the 1939 pact with Nazi Germany placing the Baltic region under the Soviet sphere of influence.

"But there were no grounds to doubt the decision on the entry of the Baltic republics into the USSR, the choice made by their peoples," he said.

The move by the Lithuanian Parliament, which is later to consider a law on republican citizenship, was a clear challenge to Moscow's concerted effort to bring the restive ethnic republics back into the fold.

It followed publication by the Lithuanian Communist Party of a draft programme calling for separation from the Soviet Communist Party "with a view to becoming a political factor in the establishment of an independent, law-governed Lithuanian state."

A long hot summer of ethnic unrest, culminating in the big Baltic protest, has sparked a sharp backlash from the central authorities seeking to curb what they say are "anti-Soviet" and "nationalist" tendencies.

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No new arms deal with Paris: Nawaf

Time not right for conscription of women

KUWAIT, Sept 23, (Kuna): Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah today asserted that Kuwait will continue its policy of purchasing arms from different sources.

Sheikh Nawaf, in an interview with a local daily, said there will be no new arms deals during the coming visit of HH the Amir of Kuwait to Paris, despite the excellent co-operation in this field between the two countries.

He further said that discussions between the two leaders will deal with means of

boosting bilateral co-operation and development countries' debt problems.

On Kuwait's exchange of expertise with Gulf Co-operation Council states in the arms sector he described it as a comprehensive one that had started before the Gulf war.

The minister, responding to a question on the situation in the Arabian Gulf, said that Kuwait is ready for any emergency or change in the Gulf, hoping that Iraq and Iran will reach a peaceful agreement.

Sheikh Nawaf said that the Austrian

Defence Minister will arrive in Kuwait November 1, to hold talks on military issues of mutual interest.

The defence minister announced that there will be amendments on some articles of military service law, noting that the time did not come yet to include Kuwait women in this service.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of the visit to France by HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, two pages on the history and development of Kuwait today appeared in the Paris-based

English daily, the International Herald Tribune.

Articles in the two pages deal with the growing international role of Kuwait, the country's ancient history, the education, foreign investments and the development women.

It said that while Kuwait fervently supports the Palestinian cause and peace efforts in Lebanon, it also sustains the Islamic world's desire to maintain its independence, traditions and heritage.

Consultants, contractors pose problems for MPW

Paving work covers 890,000 sq.m.

DIRECTOR of the Projects Implementation Department at the Ministry of Public Works, Bader Al Mashmoum stated that the ministry faces many problems while dealing with consultants, contracting and sub-contractors offices. He indicated that on several occasions project requirements are changed during the implementation stage and that labourers from these offices do not comply with working hours at outside project locations. He added that employees at the ministry are not paid on-site allowance particularly those who supervise outside projects.

Currently, implemented projects totalled KD29,958,600 spread over six main projects. The Project Implementation Department supervises the implementation of projects related to ministries and authorities in the government. Such projects are designed internally by the designing department or conducted by consultation offices upon the ministry's request. These projects include security services like police stations, educational facilities, social facilities, mosques and clinics.

Vital projects currently being handled by the department include the completion of Kuwait Handicapped Club with an estimated value of KD1,414,152, a central workshop for maintaining and repairing medical appliances and equipment at Sabah Hospital valued at KD925,000, a car garage in Sabhan Area attached to the Ministry of Public Health valued at KD976,000, two schools for parallel education in Sabah Al Salem valued at KD2,074,000, a multi-car park-

ing building in Fahahel at KD1,415,000, firemen training school in Sulabiya at KD1,888,000 and a musical and theatrical studies institute in Mishrif at KD7,950,000.

Projects

Regarding previously implemented projects, Mashmoum said that these include many projects like the Higher Health Institute for Girls, the Curricula Research Centre, the Arab Centre for Educational Research, the Ministry of Public Health building in Sulabikhat.

On the problems of dealing with consultation offices, the official said that most project designs presented by these offices are not fully complete and lack many details. This entails strenuous further efforts leading to issuing alteration orders and an increase in projects costs. The technical expertise of these offices is not adequate with the size of works they are appointed to execute.

On the other hand, he indicated that many other obstacles are faced by the department from problems such as the lack of capital of many contractors specially after the Manak crisis leading to big delays in the implementation of projects. Another problem is that many sub-contractors show negligence towards work due to money problems with main contractors causing work to come to a complete standstill. To push work faster the ministry sometimes is forced to directly pay them and discount the amount paid from bills of main contractors.

In a related development, the director of the Maintenance

Department at the Roads Administration in the Ministry of Public Works Aid Al Khaldi has said that the department had completed paving works covering 890,000 square metres during the period from March 1988 up to July 1989, within the framework of a plan to re-maintain and renovate existing roads.

He told Al Seyassah reporter that the department felt it was necessary to take care of the aesthetic element as part of its re-maintenance and renovation plan to integrate the elements of renovation and aesthetics.

He said that the department, while carrying out its plans, undertook to fulfill the wishes of the citizens which they conveyed to HH the Amir during his visits to the governorates, and that quite a number of them had already been met and others would be met in the process.

Co-ordination
Careful co-ordination had already been effected with all relevant ministries and government departments to ensure timely implementation of the plan and see to it that the results would meet with the public satisfaction, and that the purpose of co-ordination was to take care of the existing services and avoid accidental disservice to water pipes, gas and sanitary installations, telephone lines, traffic signs, agricultural works and others, he added.

He said no concrete was used to fill the spaces separating pavement bricks, and that these spaces resulted from the technical laying approach, which had to leave extension spaces adding that after all the pavement was for pedestrians.

131 farmers contracted for wheat cultivation

By Abdullah Al Shemmary

THE Director of Botanic Department at Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Jasssem Al Bader said that about 131 farmers had contracted with the authority for cultivating wheat on an area of about 470 hectares.

In an interview with the daily Al Seyassah, Bader said that the 50 farmers were from Al Abdali Area and 81 from Al Wafra. About 270 hectares had been cultivated at Al Abdali Area while about 180 hectares had been cultivated at Al Wafra Area. These figures reflect activity until the 17th of this month, the official said.

He expressed that the remaining allocated area will be cultivated before October 10 and said that registration for more farmers will be opened up to the end of September according to instructions issued by the Chairman and Director General of the Authority Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij Al Sabah.

Meanwhile, Bader was quoted as saying that the authority is extending to the farmers involved the service of cultivation, manure and harvesting in accordance with HH the Amir's directives in this connection. The output of the wheat cultivation experiment last season at Al Wafra and Al Abdali areas amounted to about 770 tons from an area of about 500 hectares.

Seek official help, victims requested

Dud cheques casting aspersions on economy

WITHIN the framework of the security awareness campaign organised by the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior for the second half of this month, and dealing with the phenomenon of dud cheques, the director of the Forgery Control Department at the General Department for Criminal Investigation Major Musad Abdul Latif Abdulhadi Farhood has said that the issue of dud cheques is not just an ordinary crime with effects confined to the people involved.

He said that the effects of this crime shook commercial trust among dealers and reflected badly on the national economy as a whole, therefore strict punitive measures would be taken against those accused of issuing dud cheques, which would jeopardise his business reputation and even take him to jail, leaving his family to suffer the consequences.

Modus operandi

Farhood said that there were a number of ways in which dishonest businessmen could manipulate cheques, which included changing the certified signature known to the bank, the drawer would order a larger amount than there was in his balance which made the cheque bounce and left the beneficiary without payment, the drawer would instruct the bank not to accept the cheque, or make intentional mistakes in the data provided on the



Farhood... consequences

cheque to get the bank to stop the payment.

He added that dealers could avoid falling victim to phony cheque issuers through confining their business dealings to those with clean records and avoid dealing with anyone previously convicted for issuing dud cheques.

Farhood described the cheque as a legal document pledging payment that was certified by the signature of the issuer, being the most important piece of writing on the cheque, adding that however this document was not to be considered a guarantee of payment, regardless of the amount or date of maturity.

He pointed out that issuing a dud cheque was in the past considered by the law as an offence, but when the phenomenon started to grow into a serious threat to the national economy and be the primary reason for the disappearance of commercial trust among dealers, it was absolutely necessary to take firmer and stricter measures to deter businessmen from resorting to this kind of fraud on the business market for personal gains against public interest.

He added that the measures to be followed on reporting a complaint against a dud cheque, the general prosecution would assign the relevant competent authorities to investigate into the content of the complaint, arrest the man who issued the cheque and take legal action.

He said that the police station would seek to sort out the problem with friendly means when such a complaint was brought to its attention, however the complaint would be treated as a criminal act and given a number to be processed as such via the general prosecution.

The department has the means to establish the authenticity of the signature appearing on a suspect cheque, and the person believed to have signed the cheque would be asked to give a specimen of his signature for comparison, by a specialist on fraud and forgery, Farhood said.

28 cholera cases found in Kuwait: Owaish

AN official source at the Ministry of Health announced that 28 cholera cases have been discovered in Kuwait among people returning to the country after spending their summer vacations. But the source said that none of the patients were in serious condition.

Director of the Public Health Department, Dr Rashid Al Owaish at the ministry announced few days ago that a number of cholera cases among travellers were found. However, he affirmed that Kuwait does not suffer from a cholera epidemic and there is no need for vaccination. He appealed to the public to observe cleanliness and thoroughly wash vegetables, particularly fresh fruits and vegetables.

From the beginning of next year a vaccination campaign for newly born babies against jaundice, will be launched. The source said that the vaccination will also include people who are subjected to the disease and patients will be dealt with identical to patients at the infectious diseases hospital. Other people interested in being vaccinated will be required to pay KD1.

Astronomer forecasts cold wave in December

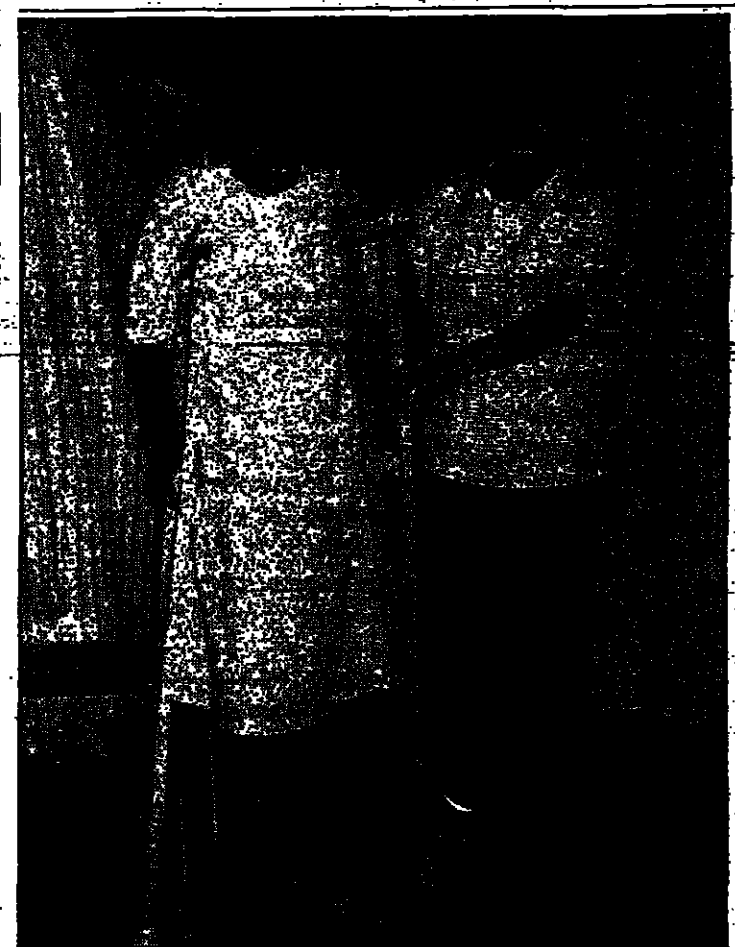
A COLD wave will sweep Kuwait in late December and early January this winter season, well-known Kuwaiti astronomer, Dr Saleh Al Ojairi said yesterday. The weather will considerably improve and become moderate from the first week of November this year. He added that humidity arrived in Kuwait late this year but it will prevail at short intervals till the end of November. Ojairi added that the months of March and April next year will witness several strong storms because of two depressions over India and Kuwait will witness stronger storms during the months of June and July also because of a depression over India.

Ojairi said that there will not be any lunar or solar eclipses till the end of this year. But next year, two solar eclipses and one lunar eclipse will take place. The two solar eclipses won't be sighted in Kuwait but the total lunar eclipse will be seen very clearly in Kuwait. He added that this total lunar eclipse will take place on Friday, Feb 9, 1990. The duration of the eclipse will be over 3 hours and 25 minutes but the moon will totally disappear over Kuwait for 44 minutes.

Magic show

The first magic show in Kuwait will be held in November according to the Expatriates Club.

Internationally known Indian magician Marco will perform two shows (Nov 9-10) at the Granada Cinema. Further details will be published shortly in the local press.



Ludivina Nolasco practicing how to ambulate with Flassik's Esther Madamba.

Ludivina is going home

LUDIVINA NOLASCO of Laoag City, Ilocos Norte will soon be going home after discharge from Al Razi Orthopaedic Hospital. She is one of the patients Flassik's Hospital Co-ordinating Committee had been taking care of and visiting regularly after she fell from her employer's third floor flat, fractured her right leg and underwent two operations due to the injuries sustained. Attorney Loi Cortel, legal officer of the Philippine embassy will be attending to the discharge formalities and Flassik will take care of the travel arrangements.

Meanwhile, tickets to the forthcoming Flassik's fun-filled endeavor, the "Rock n' Roll" beat of the '60s have been enjoying brisk sales. The Filipino community in Kuwait has again given its whole hearted support to Flassik which has untiringly strove to meet the needs of the indigent workers in Kuwait through its various welfare projects. Flassik invites its supporters to the Meridian Hotel on Friday, September 29, 1989 at 5:30 pm and guarantees a wonderful evening for everyone.

Top support for special education

THE director of the Special Education Department at the Ministry of Education Mohammad Hamad Al-Hameddi has said that the department is planning to execute a number of projects in the near future.

Speaking to a local newspaper, he said that the Special Education system in Kuwait received top support from HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. Preparations for the new academic year have already been completed, including all needed medical services and medical tests needed to qualify students for admission.

The number of teaching staff needed for the special education schools has already been completed, and that school buildings have been the subject of radical maintenance services during the summer recess.

He said that all these schools have been provided with A/C systems in implementation of the directives of HH the Amir, and that 14 special schools under the department's control provided education for four types of disabilities, namely optical disability, auditory, emotional and mental.

Students with severe mental retardation were provided with schools outside the complex, and the total number of students receiving special education is 200 of whom 51 per cent are Kuwaitis, 25 per cent from the GCC member-states, 250 students on special grants and 24 per cent expatriates.

He urged the private sector to shoulder its national role and help alleviate pressure on the government's special education services, particularly education for the handicapped.

Modifications
Of the projects planned for implementation in the near future is the application of the experience system, whereby students receiving special education would be offered education compatible with their mental age.

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Farhood may cheer

We ki Pan bor

Ermacora appreciation for Kuwaiti relief organisations

Humanitarian work in Peshawar lauded

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 23, (KUNA): Two Kuwaiti organisations, engaged in relief work of Afghan refugees in Peshawar, have won the appreciation of renowned human rights promoter Felix Ermacora.

In a recent visit to Al Fawzan Surgical Hospital, and Kuwait Red Crescent Hospital he lauded their humanitarian activities for Afghan refugees.

After his visit to the Al Fawzan Hospital, which is run by Kuwait-based *Lajnat Al Dawat Al Islamiyah*, Ermacora recorded in the visitors' book these words: "Grateful for the big humanitarian work which the hospital and its personnel are doing."

On arrival at the Al Fawzan Hospital, Ermacora, who is United Nations Gen-

eva-based special rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan, was received by Zahid Al Sheikh Mohammed, Regional manager, *Lajnat Al Dawat* in Pakistan. He briefed Ermacora on the activities of the hospital.

Ermacora, who was accompanied by Hamid Gham of special procedures section of the Geneva-based organisation,

was informed by Zahid Al Sheikh that the hospital was providing free medical treatment to Afghan refugees on humanitarian grounds.

The two-member UN delegation also went round the hospital and talked to patients and staff. Later they said they were greatly impressed by the standard of maintenance of the hospital.

Jaafar in Muscat for info meet

MUSCAT, Sept. 23, (KUNA): Information Ministry's Under-Secretary Abdul Aziz Jaafar left here today for Muscat to take part in the meeting of the committee of experts in preparation for the third conference of information ministers in the Gulf Co-operation Council due to take place there in October.

Jaafar told KUNA, in an airport statement, that the preparatory meetings would discuss pressing informational issues in the Gulf and Arab areas, adding that Kuwait will present a working paper on how to utilise international media facilities, like the Unesco and the Paris-based Arab World Institute, in the interest of Arab causes.

He indicated that the Muscat meeting will also discuss means of unifying information policies among the six member states of the GCC and boosting the Arab Information Charter.

Dubai to set up \$680m water plant

DUBAI, Sept. 23, (Reuters): The Gulf Emirate of Dubai plans to set up a 2.5-billion dirham (\$680 million) desalination plant to boost water supplies, *Al-Bayan* daily said today.

It said 30 companies were bidding for the project, which will have a 650-megawatt power plant and will produce 20 billion gallons of sweet water per year.

The plant, expected to be completed by 1993, will raise Dubai's water production to about 32 billion gallons per year, said *Al-Bayan*.



UAE Police Academy delegation

Director-General of the Police Academy Gen. Khalid Mohammed Al Munees yesterday morning received in his office a delegation from the UAE Police Academy.

Munees welcomed the delegation and said that such visits would enable the GCC police academies to promote fraternal ties.

The visiting delegation will tour the different sections of the general department of the police academy.

Importance of Amir's France visit highlighted

PARIS, Sept. 23, (KUNA): A French newspaper today highlighted the importance of the upcoming visit to France by HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, saying it comes at a time when the Gulf region is reshaping itself after eight years of war.

In a dispatch from Kuwait, the "Quotidien De Paris" newspaper said despite the ceasefire on the war fronts, Kuwait is still insisting on the necessity of an agreement between Iraq and Iran to consolidate peace in the region.

It noted that the ceasefire of the Gulf war has calmed terrorist activities inside the countries, and the last explosion to be recorded in Kuwait was three months before the ceasefire in August 1988.

The newspaper noted that relations between Tehran and Kuwait had progressed following the ceasefire and the appointment of Hashemi Rafsanjani as President of Iran, pointing out that Tehran had named a new ambassador in Kuwait.

The paper said Lebanon will be among the issues to be discussed by His Highness and President Francois Mitterrand, especially that Kuwait was leading the first Arab League mission to bring peace in to that war-torn nation.

It maintained that Kuwait considered peace efforts in Lebanon as "a family affair," thus Kuwaiti officials could not hide their concern over the presence of the French Navy few miles away from the Lebanese coast.

Another subject of discussion between the two leaders is the problem of the Third World debt, and Sheikh Jaber and President Mitterrand have earlier suggested the convocation of a conference between creditor and debtor nations.

Recalling the speech of HH in Belgrade at the Non-Aligned Movement Summit, the paper said Kuwait is calling for dropping the interest rate on loans for some developing countries and to cut down part of the debt for very poor countries.

It is expected also that President Mitterrand will open the file of the "Ganges" with HH on international efforts to build a high dam in Bangladesh to save that country from further flood.

"Quotidien De Paris" maintained that for Kuwaiti diplomacy this visit falls in the context of strengthening relations with the European Community which France chairs for the next six months.

Public lack consumer awareness, says Shatti

Women encouraged to join co-op movement

THE director of the office of HH the Amir Ibrahim Al Shatti, the first and former chairman of the Kuwait Union of Co-operative Consumer Societies, has said the co-operative movement in Kuwait was established for the sole purpose of providing reasonable prices for essential requisites with minimum emphasis on profitability.

He told a local daily that women could play a very active role in the co-operative movement, especially with the increasing scope of the urban development process with the great prospect for setting up more co-operative consumer societies.

He said it is important to establish a society for the protection of consumers in Kuwait. This will be especially true at a time when quite a few people buy things they do not immediately need and consequently do not ascertain validity dates.

Redress He added that there were cases in Kuwait in which customers would attempt to complain about a certain commodity which they discovered damaged after they had already paid the price. Consumer societies generally do not desire to screen damaged

articles too closely as this entail their having to discard a large amount of commodities.

Such incidents are rare in the Western world, as people there have a high-level of consumer awareness. The minute any customer discovers that the item or commodity purchased is anything but perfect they immediately report it.

Generally, redress involves taking punitive action and the customer being given the price difference or offered a replacement.

He said that he would not blame any co-operative society for overcharging certain items or commodities, as they themselves might have been overcharged by the suppliers or their local agents, who would take advantage of the difference in currency exchange rates.

He pointed out that out of his personal experience, the co-operative movement in Kuwait had been supported much better than it is now. Co-operative officials in the past were honest and loyally concerned about the interest of consumers.

The sole objective of the co-operative movement is to serve the country as a whole, and that shareholders had the right to a

fair share of the profits and returns. Consequently prices must not be based on any difference in treatment between the shareholders and ordinary customers, Shatti said.

Recommendations The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour is fully in charge of the co-operative movement, and consequently all problems and other obstacles looming on the way were to be sorted out by the Ministry. However, citizens in every area had the right to elect their representatives on the board of directors of their local co-operative society.

The official recommended a regular periodical reconsideration of the operation of co-operative regulations and by-laws and he strongly recommended that the duration of membership on the board of directors should not exceed three years.

Graduates of the co-operative division in the College of Commercial Studies should be offered tempting incentives and salaries to accept employment in the co-operative system, whether males or females, and females could be assigned to positions commensurate with their abilities and potentials, Shatti said.

Symposium on child raising

Establishment of nurseries suggested

AFTER the end of summer holidays, many working mothers will start looking for good babysitters or housemaids who they can depend on to take care of children while they are away at work.

Conversely, quite a few working mothers cannot afford having a babysitter and therefore, the only recourse is to send their children to nurseries. Many mothers wonder if nurseries are the ideal resolution of the problem. Is it a good replacement for housemaids?

A local daily conducted a survey to evaluate the ramifications of the problem.

A symposium on pre-primary school child raising was organised by the Community Service and Continuous Education Centre, under the patronage of Sheikhha Latifa Al Fahad last May. Deliberations indicated giving working mothers the right to obtain a one year motherhood leave with half salary so they fulfill their motherly role by taking care of their children socially, morally and from a health aspect.

Dr Bader Al Omar, discussed the problem at a symposium on education and children organised by Kuwait General Labourers Union where he stressed on the fact that children nurseries are the logical replacement for grandmothers who spoil children by extra kindness.

Nurseries are the ideal replacement to housemaids, the official said. Studies conducted by several local establishments indicated that housemaids impart undesired influences on the new generation.

He added that in Saudi Arabia there are many children nurseries fully supervised by the Ministry of Education. These nurseries receive children from two months up to 4 years of age. Such nurseries in Saudi Arabia have gardens, and children games which are totally managed by specialised supervisors.

Iqbal Al Amairi a working mother expressed her opinion by saying that she is not interested in taking her child to a nursery and her husband also has the same opinion. She stated that nurseries include many children who may be unhealthy. Additionally a mother cannot be sure if her child is comfortable at the nursery or not specially as the child being at a young age is unable to express his/her feelings on the situation there.

She said that she preferred to leave her child under the care of a housemaid even though she knows that maids are disadvantageous.

She indicated that those mothers who leave their children at nurseries are not to be blamed because they do not have any other choice. She believes that both nurseries and housemaids have negative effects on children. She cannot be sure that a real ideal nursery is there to do the job right.

Noura Al Khaled, another working mother stated that she would admit her child to a nursery after ensuring that her child will not face any major problems. She stated that those children who are left by their mothers at nurseries suffer health problems.

Speed traps

THE General Traffic Department is currently conducting a special plan to monitor vehicles along specifically selected express roads all over the country to ensure that speed limits are complied with and that drivers do not recklessly endanger lives of individuals and property.

Patrols will be provided with state-of-the-art equipment and vehicles to facilitate their duties and all patrols will be located in close proximity with each other.

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BAHRAIN DIGEST

Illegal 'messes' to be shut down

THE days of illegal eating places in Bahrain are numbered as authorities have started operating to sweep down on them and ensure their closure. For a long time now the number of such places have existed in the island and proliferated to about forty at present. This practice is run clandestinely by expatriates, the bulk comprising of Indians, from private flats and houses usually in the Manama Souk quarters.

Business is conducted just like any genuine restaurant except that this practice is illegal. According to the law anyone who indulges in cooking and selling of food must like any other entrepreneur or commercial establishment obtain the commercial registration (CR) from the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture.

In recent years selling food illegally to the public has become a lucrative business. Food is prepared and served to customers from these private flats, most of whom are confined to congested neighbourhoods in the Manama Souk. Because of the clandestine nature of these operations it is difficult to ascertain the exact locations of most of these houses. Business is conducted usually in a "mess system" whereby customers may either eat regularly on monthly payment basis or at random.

Since the operators of this illegal practice are mostly Indians, basic Indian cuisine is served primarily aimed at Indian customers. However certain other nationalities also patronise these joints as food served in these private dwelling are generally popular. The nature of the food cooked at home is also an added attraction. Diners can eat either at the premises or take away.

Illegal eating places are popular among lower and middle income expatriates from South Asian countries. Bachelors in particular prefer to eat in such places because of economical prices and availability of a wide variety of "home-cooked" meals. Some places cater exclusively for vegetarians, while others specialise in food for different ethnic groups from India.

Invariably the practice appears to be convenient and beneficial for both the operator and the customer. The operator may employ one or two cooks and perhaps a couple of assistants who help to clean and serve food. The owner may earn anything from BD200-500 a month. After overheads and expenses there still remain a handsome profit, not bad considering the illegal nature of this practice.

Until recently the operators of such illegal eating places have been able to carry on this business freely. The matter has been taken up by the authorities in view of frequent complaints from legal restaurant and cafe owners who claim that illegal food operators "steal" their customers.

So far the authorities have closed down about twenty such operations. Officials have voiced difficulty and delay in closing down the remaining joints because of technical matters related to residential rights of tenants.

"It is not easy to just go to a private house and take action against owners. Since a few people eat at anyone's time, a tenant may claim that the customers also live there," said an official recently.



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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

HAVE no friends not equal to yourself — Confucius.
Chinese philosopher (551 BC - 479 BC).

Chinese public indoctrinated

IN a dark room with concrete floors, a dozen Chinese workers slump on wooden stools, sweat streaking their temples.

"Read this document and tell us what you think of it," orders the group leader, a middle-aged Communist Party member in a white, short-sleeved shirt.

In a monotone voice, a worker begins another tedious rendition of what China's propagandists call the "counter-revolutionary rebellion" — but what everyone present knows was the bloody suppression of spring protests for democracy.

Soon, the show of political resolve gives way to the sweltering Beijing heat.

"All right," says the leader, mopping perspiration from his brow, "who's going to go out and buy a watermelon?"

"Political study" sessions like this one, described by a worker who attended, have been mandatory at factories, schools, and government offices across China since June. The forced discussion of "weighty speeches" by Chinese leaders is intended to indoctrinate the public with Beijing's version of the June 3-4 massacre.

According to Chinese sources, Beijing authorities have recently widened their crackdown to cover several categories of people, including virtually anyone who supported the call for basic freedoms.

Strikers

The crackdown initially focussed on student activists, intellectuals, and so-called "riffians and thugs" who burned military vehicles. Now citizens say they are being asked to confess and repent even minor gestures like taking water to student hunger strikers.

"They say they want to 'wash our brains' and turn our thinking around," says one resident, who requested anonymity as did others interviewed for this article.

But few in Beijing seem to be succumbing to the party's massive indoctrination campaign. Instead, many people are resisting passively in public, while privately condemning the party leadership.

"We just talk a lot of nonsense," says a Chinese journalist, who must sit through two eight-hour political sessions a week. "It will be impossible for the leadership to wipe out dissent," he says.

One office worker who witnessed the military onslaught says she and her colleagues play dumb when asked whether they aided protesters by taking food and water to Tiananmen Square, or offering them wet towels to shield their eyes from tear-gas.

"I supported the students. If the government had held a dialogue with them, as (ousted Communist Party General Secretary) Zhao Ziyang proposed, there wouldn't have been a blood bath," she says. "But no one is admitting anything at the political meetings. The situation is very tense."

A Beijing University student who camped in Tiananmen Square during the protests says she must return to campus for a month of ideological study designed to instill in her the "Marxist stand."

But recalling a classmate who was gunned down in the massacre, she adds: "The leaders are so stupid to lie. No one believes them." She points to the government's contention that fully armed troops suffered worse casualties during the crackdown than unarmed Beijing residents.

"If Beijing citizens are so fierce, why don't they send them down to the Sino-Vietnamese border to fight? No need for guns and soldiers there," she says bitterly.

Production

Many of Beijing's blue-collar workers are waging a tacit, ongoing display of discontent with the leadership in the form of "dai gong" or work slowdowns.

Chen Ji, an official at the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, says both slowdowns and small-scale strikes are a problem.

"In the past, Chinese workers dawdled on the job under the Kuomintang (Nationalist Party). Now they are loafing under the Communist Party," says Ji. One Chinese source estimates the slowdowns cost Beijing huge sums in lost production each day.

Worker resentment has been worsened by the imposed political study. Workers at the Beijing No. 1 Cotton Mill, who joined the protests with big cloth banners and carried "mantou," or steamed wheat buns to the students, must now spend leisure hours studying Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping's June 9 speech. In this speech Deng laid down the party's rationale for the crackdown and congratulated the military.

"In the beginning, some workers weren't very clear about the counter-revolutionary turmoil," says Lu Shipao, Communist Party secretary at the mill. "Some even supported it," he says. "But now they understand."

Yet, apparently aware of the limits of Marxist indoctrination in controlling street-wise Beijing residents, Chinese authorities are resorting to more drastic methods in their struggle to quash dissent. One new method chosen by Communist Party leaders is capitalist: the cash incentive.

Even before the brutal military assault, Chinese officials offered to pay some Beijing citizens more than a day's wage to take part in government-staged protests against the democracy movement. Many people refused.

Now, informers who expose citizens who joined the democracy movement are paid cash rewards, sources say. Employees who fail to attend political study meetings face a small pay cut, say workers affected by the rule.

Beijing authorities are also relying heavily on plainclothes police and surveillance cameras to keep an eye on Chinese and foreign residents. The railway station, parks, the university quarter, and the main shopping district are all closely watched.

The capital's detention centres are overflowing with residents whom police have "taken in for investigation," says a Chinese source familiar with judicial matters. Beatings of detainees are common, the source says. But he adds that police may soon have to begin releasing the detainees for lack of evidence, creating another pool of discontent.

Most of all, Beijing residents may resent the presence of martial-law troops which patrol thoroughfares and alleys by day and keep people off the streets at night. (CSM)

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1513 — Tournai, Belgium, surrenders to English force, Swiss Army attacks Dijon, France.
- 1568 — Spanish capture English ships and booty at San Juan, Puerto Rico, from fleet under Sir John Hawkins.
- 1688 — France's King Louis XVI declares war against Holy Roman Empire, called the war of the League of Augsburg.
- 1706 — Peace of Altranstadt between Sweden and Saxony, whereby Sweden renounces Polish throne and recognises Stanislaus Lasczynski, the pro-Swedish nominee.
- 1853 — France annexes New Caledonia.
- 1943 — Soviet army crosses Dnieper River north of Kiev as Germans retreat in World War II.
- 1948 — First conference in London of representatives from Britain's African colonies.
- 1966 — Mob ransacks and burns Portuguese Embassy in Leopoldville in the Congo.
- 1971 — Britain expels 90 Soviets for espionage activities.
- 1977 — United States and Soviet Union say high-level talks have narrowed their differences on proposed agreement limiting strategic bomber and missile forces.
- 1987 — Armed forces of Transkei seize control of one of South Africa's black homelands, ousting the prime minister.
- 1988 — Opposition leaders call on citizens to join peaceful struggle against Burma's newest military government.

Doors to refugees may close

EC plans for lifting internal borders

RAJAH PONNAMPALAM is no international businessman, but he is confronting what a growing number of critics refer to as "fortress Europe."

Ponnampalam is a Sri Lankan Tamil who left his country in 1981 because, he says, "they were killing many young people like me." He fled to Italy, but failing to receive refugee status there, he came to France.

Now he has been denied political asylum in France, even though back home his father died after being tortured. Ponnampalam has received letters from his church and his family telling him that to return home now would endanger his life.

Regarding Europe, "I've been told that other countries are the same as France," says Ponnampalam (not his real name). "But I might have a chance in Sweden, so I'm going to try that."

Adopting an image most commonly used to express the fears of non-European businesses toward the European Community's single-market project, refugee rights supporters across Europe are warning that plans for lifting internal borders in the EEC's 12 member states by 1992 could result in a "fortress" of a different sort.

Pointing to negotiations under way at several governmental levels, refugee rights groups say they fear records on refugee processing and acceptance will result in a Europe increasingly closed to asylum seekers.

Refusal of refugee status in one member country will eventually apply to the entire European Community — something some observers claim is virtually the practice today.

Not wanting to become a magnet within the Community to refugees, those countries that currently hold their doors most open will tend to close them to conform with stricter countries, refugee supporters contend.

"The fear is that elimination of internal borders will be accompanied by the building up of a strong common external border," says Peter Leuprecht, director of the human-rights division of the Council of Europe. "There are reasons to fear an erosion of the right to asylum."

European governments involved in negotiations discount the concerns and insist that the lifting of

internal borders will, while allowing greater freedom to Community residents, have little effect on asylum procedures.

"For us, a unification of laws concerning the right to asylum is not even a consideration," wrote French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas recently in the official journal of the National Assembly. "There is no question of backing away from something that in France is a secure right," says a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Such words fail to reassure refugee-rights organizations however, which say that a number of measures being considered point to a hardening approach even as the number of refugees worldwide continues to grow.

Negotiations involving France, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg — considered a precursor of what the entire Community could adopt by 1992 — include a provision to hold transport companies, such as airlines, responsible for ascertaining the entry and financial status of passengers. Companies accepting passengers without proper immigration documents would be subject to fines and orders to return the refugee seeker at their cost.

"Imagine if there had been visa requirements during World War II, how many truly threatened people would have been prevented from going to other countries," notes Leuprecht.

Also being considered is a computerized information system on refugee applicants in Europe that critics say could threaten not only privacy rights but lives, if the information got in the hands of a refugee's repressive government.

The "hardening" is also evident, refugee rights supporters contend, in EEC border-security negotiations that discuss refugee seekers in the same context as drug traffickers and terrorists.

"It is our strong conviction that the great number of asylum seekers present no security risk," says Hank Glimmerveen, chairman of a working group on refugee rights within the Dutch Council of Churches. "That grouping indicates the deterioration of the status of refugees."

Indeed, as the number of refugees has grown worldwide — to more than 13 million in 1988, according to the United Nations High Commis-

sioner on Refugees — countries, especially in the West and including Europe, have tightened asylum policies. In 1988, about 5 per cent of the world's refugees lived in Europe.

More refugee requests are being dismissed as economically motivated, and countries are requiring proofs of specific and personal threats rather than just general danger in the country of origin. In France alone, where asylum requests increased from 25,000 in 1986 to 34,000 last year, more than 70 per cent of petitions are denied.

Negotiations among European governments on the refugee issue are being held in secret; this is being taken by refugee support organizations as a bad omen.

"Because the work is going on in the tightest secrecy, we don't really know what they're deciding," says Michel Tubiana, general secretary of the Ligue des Droits de l'Homme. "We can't help but fear, however, that in order to accommodate each country, the criteria being adopted are the most closed."

Government officials say such closed discussions are an accepted part of intergovernmental negotiations, and contend that sufficient information on the negotiations is made public at occasional European ministerial meetings. But refugee advocates are concerned that accords will be signed with virtually no public commentary and with only a full acceptance or rejection left to national parliaments.

Accords among the five European countries the furthest along in negotiations were supposed to be signed in early 1990, but that target has now been put off.

Some refugee advocates say the potential for harmonization of European legislation on refugees is not all bad. They point out, for example, that the problem of refugee is not all bad. They point out, for example, that the problem of refugees dubbed "on orbit" travelling from one country to another in search of legal asylum, as in the case of Ponnampalam — would be solved.

But they maintain that the solution can be a positive one only if European countries adopt common screening criteria that are not based on the most restrictive prevailing regulations. (CSM)

Monica caved in after all

A reflection of candour and caution

MONICA DE GREIFF, 32, reflected the style and candour of a new generation of Colombian professionals when she took up her post as justice minister in July.

But in resigning after just two months in the job at the forefront of fighting the nation's cocaine cartels she reflected another widespread attitude — caution.

Her resignation was officially confirmed on Friday by a Justice Ministry spokeswoman.

De Greiff had received repeated death threats, not surprising for someone in a post considered one of the most risky in Colombia since the April 30, 1984, assassination of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

Another predecessor, Enrique Parejo Gonzalez, who helped set up an Andean Pact to fight drug trafficking, was shot and seriously wounded in January, 1987, in Budapest, where he was posted as ambassador for his safety.

In the three years that President Virgilio Barco has been in office there have been eight justice ministers and the resignation of each sparked questions of capitulation to narcotics-related threats.

Besides administering the country's 4,370 judges, De Greiff also sat on the National Council of Narcotics, which is empowered to order the immediate extradition of traffickers wanted by the United States.

On a trip to Washington late last month she denied reports that she had resigned because of the death threats and handled reporters' questions at a news conference in the US capital directly and candidly.

Taking up her post in Bogota on July 16, she also broke with formality and pomp.

Attending her swearing-in De Greiff, who has shoulder-length blonde hair, wore a flowered-print dress reaching her ankles and brought her three-year-old son, Miguel.

The toddler broke protocol when he stepped across a room and interrupted Barco by asking to see the pen with which the leader was signing the ministerial inauguration papers.

De Greiff's candour reflected the style of a younger generation of Colombia professionals.

"Monica de Greiff has little in common with the hardened men, who are experts in protocol, in long and heavy speeches... and use English handkerchiefs with Italian ties," the newspaper La Prensa wrote in a recent profile.

However, one analyst thought at the time of her swearing in that she might be too young to weather the pressures of her job.

"One needs to know what one is getting into," said a lawyer who specialises in narcotics issues. "One needs more political experience to deal with the pressures."

But La Prensa, in its profile, said: "Although there are comments in hallways that she isn't old



Monica de Greiff: new generation

enough for the job, people know she is young but she is not an improviser."

The article said that she inherited her concern for upholding the law from her father, who sits on the council of state, the top administrative law tribunal in the country.

She has had to weather two strikes by judges pressing for more government protection. More than 50 judges have been killed in Colombia over the past decade.

De Greiff comes from a family prominent in academic life, the arts and politics. She is related to one of Colombia's foremost poets, Leon de Greiff,

as well as the conductor Otto de Greiff.

Born on Nov 6, 1956, she was educated in Bogota and La Prensa said her favourite music as a teenager included Joe Cocker and the Carpenters.

Her jobs have included being a secretary-general in an investment fund, manager of a film distribution company and administrative sub-director of the institute of urban development.

She was also secretary-general of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the third highest job in the institution, and was vice-minister of justice.

She has been married for five years to an Argentine advertising executive. (Bogota — Reuters)

US not 'frantic' about arms control

THE FOCUS is on arms control in this latest round of US-Soviet talks, and the United States knows how it wants to approach that subject.

But on the economic front, there is no decision yet on how much help to give Mikhail Gorbachev as the Soviet president tries to restructure his country's industries and agriculture.

Arms control and economics are related. Reducing troops and weapons gives Gorbachev more capital to spend on consumer goods and other necessities.

President George Bush and his foreign policy advisers have made up their minds in one respect, at least.

They will move to conclude arms control agreements that are in US security interests. But they will not be "frantic" about it, Secretary of State James Baker III said this week.

On the economic front there have been only hints. The judgment within the administration seems to be that Gorbachev's reform programme will succeed or fail mostly on decisions made in Moscow.

"There are no simple or quick fixes," Baker said.

But on some specific steps that could help Gorbachev, the administration is still making up its mind. One is whether to give the Soviets the same kind of trading privileges granted Hungary this week. Another is whether to support membership for

Moscow in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The 96-nation GATT sets rules for international trade and settles disputes among its members. Membership would be a break for Gorbachev and give the Soviet economy greater acceptance within the international trading community.

Gorbachev is seeking at least observer status. He also wants membership in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

This summer, Gorbachev entered a bid for links to the annual summit meeting of the United States and six other industrialized democracies — Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and West Germany.

He didn't get his foot in the door. Baker's advice this week to the Soviets was to help themselves by pulling out of regional wars around the globe and redirecting billions of dollars saved into the economy.

"They are spending billions of dollars in regional conflict situations that we think could be put to better use to assist the process of perestroika," he said.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger took a tougher line in a speech last week.

He reminded the Western allies and Japan that Gorbachev "is no anti-communist" and said they should avoid "bankrolling merely cosmetic Soviet

reforms."

The exact extent of the Soviet Union's economic straits is of considerable interest in the West. US analysts are constantly reassessing the economic power of the Soviet Union. They are interested mainly in how much capital the Soviets are spending on their military programmes.

At a Central Committee meeting last year Gorbachev made an admission that surprised some analysts here.

He said growth figures in the 1970s under Leonid Brezhnev had been boosted by high-price oil sales and by the sale of vodka. Otherwise, Gorbachev said, "there was no increase in the absolute growth of the national income."

Some people would make the argument that the United States, its European partners and Japan have a stake in Gorbachev succeeding. They would argue he has lowered tensions while also trying to improve conditions at home.

Failure could usher in a hardline successor.

Others argue that the West should keep its distance and let the Soviets figure their own way out of difficulty.

Collectively, the Bush administration is not sure yet, but the latter is the direction in which it appears to be going as Baker huddles with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Vietnamese pullout
Cambodian gamble

VIETNAM'S unilateral troop pullout from Cambodia, a decade after it ousted the Khmer Rouge, is a gamble full of risks for its long-suffering neighbour.

Both Hanoi and the Phnom Penh government set up after invading in 1978 hope to end their status as pariahs in the eyes of most of the rest of the world.

But without hardy Vietnamese — arguably the world's best infantry — to carry the fight to Khmer Rouge guerrillas; and after the failure of a 19-nation, month-long Paris conference to reconcile warring Cambodian factions, the future is bleak.

Hanoi and Phnom Penh want to prove Cambodia's independence by sending the last Vietnamese troops home next Tuesday. They say Hanoi's army presence can no longer be used as a propaganda tool by Khmer Rouge guerrillas seeking to regain power.

The troops began snaking out of Cambodia on Thursday, moving down from the northwestern province of Battambang to Pursat before trekking east through Phnom Penh to the border.

It has been widely forecast that protracted Afghan-style guerrilla warfare will erupt in the vacuum left by the Vietnamese.

"The difference is that the mujahedeen are fighting among themselves, while the Khmer Rouge is a cohesive and ruthless bunch," one European diplomat said.

Diplomats and foreign aid workers say Cambodia has been so weakened by internal decline and foreign intervention that the communist government cannot count on much support from its weary population of eight million.

"We may be seeing a society no longer capable of sustaining nationhood," one Bangkok-based envoy has said.

Cambodians interviewed at random were not confident that their army could hold off the Khmer Rouge.

"The Army's too corrupt. I deserted in 1987. Nobody wants to fight anymore," said one man. Desertion and draft evasion is a major problem, say Eastern European diplomats.

"Hanoi and Phnom Penh appear overconfident. If the troops really go, I don't see how Phnom Penh can run the whole country — that government is a shell and the Cambodian Army is hopeless," one Bangkok-based diplomat said last week.

Phnom Penh and Hanoi are also betting that Western nations will drop their embargo on aid and trade after the pullout.

Both Indochinese states are among the world's 10-poorest and make no secret of their desire to end their economic and diplomatic isolation. An increasingly miserly Moscow is their main source of oil, arms and machinery.

Washington, which lost out to Hanoi in an undeclared Indochina war that ended 14 years ago, recognises neither and still bans commerce with Hanoi under a law forbidding trade with any country.

Having long demanded that normalisation of ties with Cambodia and Vietnam wait until Vietnam pulled out, Washington and Peking this year hardened their conditions.

They demanded international verification of a troop pullout and a comprehensive Cambodian settlement that would effectively give the Khmer Rouge a share of power in an interim government.

In interviews over the past week, Vietnamese and Cambodian officials said this week's troop exodus should satisfy sceptics.

Washington can no longer accuse us of occupying Cambodia, its problem is now how to explain to the American people why it is following a policy that could resume Khmer Rouge genocide," a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry official said.

US officials say privately Hanoi's military presence is effectively over, even if guerrilla charges that up to 30,000 Vietnamese soldiers are being left behind prove true. (Phnom Penh — Reuters)

Change policies

SIR: I read the letter of Clancy Rebello in the Arab Times (Sept 17) criticising Nagoyama for writing against India.

Rebello instead of admitting the facts of Indian brutality, just could not face the truth due to the blind love for his country, and instead started throwing mud on Japan. Rebello reminded Nagoyama of his country's policies of the past. But what India is doing is in the present.

Rebello instead of telling Nagoyama to change Japan's policies of the past, should tell his country to stop aggression against its smaller neighbours.

A.R.A. Sadiq,
Maidan Hawalli.

Quote me

"We are trying to be completely honest with you, to put everything out in the open. But gentlemen, if you only see the negative side of sport, we will have to change our tactics." — International Weightlifting Federation general secretary Dr Tamas Ajan telling journalists everything possible will be done to wipe out doping.

"The number eight can be used as a positive result, or it can be used as a reason to propose that weightlifting be banned from the Olympics. But I ask you, if 100 drivers are found to be under the influence of alcohol, do we ban automobiles? Why should we ban a sport if 8 out of 5 million world-wide are found with drugs?" — IWF general secretary Dr Tamas Ajan on the negative publicity accorded weightlifting due to doping.

"I am here to announce the gospel, which is joyous news of liberation. There is a liberation from physical servitude, which is certainly important for human beings, as you can well testify. But there is also a moral liberation, on which all the rest depends, as soon as a person becomes aware of his own transcendent destiny, which is not closed within a horizon of time, but is open to eternity." — Pope John Paul preaching the gospel to prison inmates.

"There are several sports which have a higher incidence of doping than weightlifting. We do not want to name them. But we also do not want to be a scapegoat for all of sports. And if the current prejudice continues, we will be compelled to reveal the names of these sports."

— Dr Tamas Ajan threatening to mention names if campaign against weightlifters is not stopped by the media.

سكراي

MIDEAST

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Syrian missile

PARIS, Sept. 23. (Kuna): The Syrian government is trying to set up industrial infrastructure capable of producing land-to-land missiles, a French weekly magazine reported today.

Agent acquitted

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Sept. 23. (AP): The city's magistrates' court acquitted a Shin Bet security service agent suspected of negligence in the death of a Palestinian under interrogation for lack of proof, an attorney for the agent said yesterday.

Drugs seized

TANGIER, Morocco: Moroccan security forces seized more than 362 tonnes of cannabis and hashish in July and August, the official MAP news agency reported today.

Falls to death

ZURICH, Sept. 23. (Reuters): A 26-year-old Israeli student fell to his death after trying to cross Europe's biggest waterfall on a tightrope.

Annual swim

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Sept. 23. (AP): The annual swim across the biblical sea of Galilee turned into a hike today, when swimmers had to walk the last 400 metres (yards) because of the drop in the water level, Israel Radio said.

New Iraqi push

NICOSIA, Sept. 23. (AP): The Iraqi Army has launched a new offensive against Kurdish guerrillas in the northern stronghold near the Iranian border, the first major assault in a year, a guerrilla spokesman said today.

Velayati for UN

NICOSIA, Sept. 23. (AP): Iran's foreign minister left for New York today to attend a United Nations General Assembly, but gave no hint whether he will meet Iraqi officials to resume peace talks to formally end the Gulf war.

Border attack

NATROBI, Sept. 23. (AP): Somali forces killed "many people" in a sweep through southern Somalia after waging an unprovoked and deadly attack on a Kenyan border town, Kenya's foreign minister said yesterday.

Cairo talks

ABU DHABI, Sept. 23. (AP): Leaders of Senegal and Mauritania may hold talks in Cairo to resolve differences which pushed them into war early this year, according to a report published here today.

Swiss end probe

BERNE, Sept. 23. (Reuters): Several firms in Switzerland helped finance and equip a Libyan plant suspected of making chemical weapons but they broke no Swiss laws, the federal prosecutor's office said yesterday.

League meeting

TUNIS, Sept. 23. (Reuters): The Arab League will hold an emergency meeting at Libya's request on Monday to discuss reports that an Israeli test missile landed in the sea 250 miles north of Benghazi last week, the League said.

UK journalist detained in Iraq

LONDON, Sept. 23. (Agencies): Britain formally expressed its concern to Iraq about the case of a journalist detained in that country, the Foreign Office said yesterday.

The spokesman said Foreign Office official David Gore-Booth met yesterday in London with Iraq's ambassador to Britain, Dr Azmi Shafiq Al-Salhi, to raise the issue of British-based journalist, Farzad Bazofi, who is being detained in Iraq.

The spokesman said the ambassador would relay Britain's concerns to the Iraqi government and the Foreign Office is now waiting for a response.

The newspaper said it was told by Iraqi officials in London that Bazofi had visited forbidden places and photographs he had were being confiscated. They said he would return to London on Tuesday's Iraqi Airways flight but he did not show up for it, the weekly said.

Syria urges quick action

Lebanese happy; ceasefire welcomed

NICOSIA, Sept. 23. (Agencies): Syria today urged a quick implementation of an Arab League peace plan for Lebanon which has been cautiously welcomed throughout the world.

Christian army commander Gen. Michel Aoun was quoted as saying today that a real peace opportunity had been ushered in, adding that he was accepting an Arab League plan to give peace a chance.

Meanwhile, Muslims and Christians jammed the war-ravaged streets of Beirut today in subdued but happy mood hoping the latest peace plan to end 14 years of civil war will hold.



Two Muslim militiamen cover a Soviet-made B-10 cannon (above) at Beirut's Muslim part and (below) a family drive back to Beirut after Arab peace envoy announced that Aoun had accepted a ceasefire. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rested after a rare night free from indiscriminate shelling, they shopped and prepared their children for a hoped-for return to school.

The United States yesterday welcomed reports that Lebanon's Christian army commander had accepted a seven-point Arab League peace plan for Lebanon.

"We hope that this will result quickly in a ceasefire by all the parties to the conflict," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

"We join with other members of the UN Security Council ... in strongly urging all the parties to stop the violence and support the Arab League's call to begin the process of reconciliation," Boucher said.

The UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he learned with relief the acceptance by the head of the Lebanese military government of the Arab League peace plan proposed by the tripartite committee last Saturday.

"I think it's an important piece of news which I have learned about with some relief," Perez de Cuellar told Kuna on his way to the Security Council.

France also welcomed the decision of Gen Aoun to accept Arab League ceasefire plan.

"The way is now open to ... dialogue between Lebanese for national reconciliation and the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Arab League Secretary-General Cheddi Kliti thanked Lebanon's leading politicians for co-operating with the League committee which drafted the latest peace plan for Lebanon.

Kliti thanked Aoun and Hoss and said he hoped the new ceasefire would lead to national reconciliation and the resurrection of legal institutions.

Kliti sent separate messages to the heads of state and foreign ministers of the committee member states — Morocco, Algeria and Saudi Arabia — congratulating them on the success of their mediation efforts.

Pope John Paul II has appealed to all archbishops of the Catholic church and the Muslims to "salvage war-shattered Lebanon." The Vatican press office said today.

Vatican sources disclosed that the hand-written papal message was delivered to the Saudi ambassador Khaled Nassir Al-Turki, whose country presides over the Arab League committee.

The guns have been virtually silent since Aoun accepted the plan to end six months of fighting. A ceasefire will be followed

by deliberations on political reforms.

The general who in March declared a "war of liberation" to expel the 33,000 Syrian troops deployed in Lebanon, said he took his decision after receiving guarantees from Arab and foreign countries that Syria would pull out its forces.

In Damascus, daily Tishrin said: "We should remember this is not the first time Aoun is forced to announce a mere formal acceptance of a matter of consensus in the hope of the occurrence

of better circumstances in the future.

"This makes us insist on turning his acceptance into action."

Meanwhile, thousands of refugees who had fled bloodbath in Beirut began returning to the devastated city.

Arab League envoy Lakhdar Al-Ibrahimi, entrusted with supervising the ceasefire, held contacts with army and militia commanders ahead of the first meeting of a proposed security committee to check any violations.

'Arabs ready for Israel talks'

RABAT, Sept. 23. (Agencies): King Hassan of Morocco was quoted yesterday as saying Arabs are ready to negotiate a comprehensive peace with Israel but full Palestinian independence would take time.

In an interview with Spanish television, he said the Palestine Liberation Organisation had cleared the way for Arab-Israeli talks by recognising "the right of Israel to live in peace."

On the Arab side everything was ready for negotiations, he said in the interview carried by the official Moroccan MAP news agency.

"Anyway we will have to pass through a number of intermediate stages," he said. "We will clearly not go straight to independence for Palestine, that is one thing that is sure."

King Hassan was speaking a few days before beginning his first state visit to Spain.

The Moroccan monarch — one of the few Arab leaders to have openly met senior Israelis — said it was important for both sides that the chance of peace be seized quickly.

"The Israelis risk becoming a minority in their own territory. The Arabs have more children than the Israelis," he said.

The image of Israel in the eyes of the world had been badly dented by the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, he added.

"The image of Israel is no longer the same. Torturing children, killing children of the intifada (uprising), bombing people who are unarmed ... these methods have brought no honour to Israel," Hassan said.

He said intelligent Israelis would realise this and negotiate peace.

On Lebanon, he said the most important first step towards ending the 14-year civil war would be to convene parliament.

"That is very important," he said. "Once the first step is taken, the second will follow."

Israeli leaders exchanged biting accusations across the ocean over Egypt's peace plan as Palestinians cheered an Arab to death and killed a prisoner in their crusade against suspected collaborators with Israel.

A general strike also shut down the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in response to a call by the PLO-led underground leadership of the Palestinian uprising for a show of solidarity with jailed activists and deportees.

Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank have asked Israeli authorities to prosecute two prominent Palestinians they accused of leading the 21-month-old Arab uprising.

In a document presented to Israeli authorities, settlers called for charges to be brought against journalist Radwan Abu Ayash and professor Sari Nusseibeh, whose names have been mentioned in evidence against detained uprising activists.

PLO executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas today urged Washington to pressure Israel to launch direct talks with his organisation, the official Jordan news agency reported.

"The United States government has to pressure Israel to launch a direct Israeli-Palestinian dialogue to reach a settlement in the Arab-Israeli dispute," Abbas said after a 90-minute meeting with Prime Minister Zeid Bin Shaker.

Turkey seeks OIC meeting

JEDDAH, Sept. 23. (AP): Turkey has called for a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers to discuss the plight of ethnic Turks who have left Bulgaria, according to a statement released yesterday.

HH the Amir of Kuwait, the current chairman of the OIC, has been mediating to bring Turkey and Bulgaria to the negotiating table.

Hamid Al Gabid, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, told the daily Arab News in an interview that Turkey had proposed that meeting take place in New York on the sidelines of the 44th session of the UN General Assembly.

Gabid, who was in Kuwait for a meeting with the Amir earlier this week, hinted that a round of talks between the two countries at the level of experts or foreign ministers might take place in Kuwait before the end of September.

An advance text of the interview was made available to the Associated Press.

Gabid said Turkey suggested that the talks with the Bulgarians start first at the level of experts to be followed by a meeting between the two foreign ministers, and later the two presidents to discuss bilateral relations in a comprehensive manner.

The consent of two-thirds of the OIC's 46 members is necessary to convene such a meeting. Gabid said he believed that such a majority would not be difficult to obtain.

Gabid said the Amir was "adamant in his efforts aimed at opening talks between the two countries."

He said the Jeddah-based secretariat of the OIC was in contact with member states to ensure the required votes, and anticipated that the meeting would take place in early October.

The OIC foreign ministers usually hold a meeting in New York for co-ordination on standpoints vis-a-vis issues on the agenda of the UN General Assembly. The date set for the gathering this year is Oct. 4.

Kabul mayor seeks justice

KABUL, Sept. 23. (Agencies): Abdul Karim Misaq, newly appointed mayor of Kabul, has come to the fore again after surviving setbacks and hard times in the turbulent world of Afghan politics.

Misaq, a short-story writer, was jailed first by deposed King Zahir Shah and then by the Soviet-backed communist government.

President Najibullah brought Misaq, a founder of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), out of political oblivion and appointed him mayor of the Afghan capital last month.

Given a second chance as a rehabilitated Marxist revolution, Misaq now wants some belated justice.

"A group of people were harmed after the December 1979 event. It's a problem that needs to be tackled on the basis of the constitution of the party and I'm in the category of people that were harmed," 50-year-old Misaq told foreign reporters at his office in the Kabul municipality building.

Misaq was finance minister in the government of a rival faction of the PDPA which Karmal overthrew. He spent the next two years in jail or under house arrest.

Speaking with a candour rarely heard in Kabul's corridors of power, Misaq said the Soviet withdrawal of the last of its 100,000 troops in February "not only helps in my case but also in many other spheres."

"We cannot hide the fact that the coming of the Soviet troops to Afghanistan created a number of problems," said Misaq, who was also stripped of his party membership and spent the following years jobless, writing short stories.

Misaq was a victim of party split that dates almost from the party's foundation in 1965 when King Zahir Shah ruled Afghanistan.

Misaq, who for a long time was a member of the central committee, remembers Najibullah "when he was a competent rank and file party cadre." He said he wants the party to reconcile with him and other members of his faction.

"The first step is waiting for the good will and understanding from the leadership," Misaq added.

Meanwhile at least 17 people were killed and 38 injured when mujahideen rebels unleashed the most ferocious attack on the Afghan capital in weeks, hospital and government officials said today.

A state hospital spokesman said seven rockets fell into Kabul's residential areas yesterday, including one that smashed through an apartment window.

There was no report about whether any military targets had been hit. Many military installations, heavily defended by artillery and medium-range missile batteries, are located near residential areas.

The mujahideen have intensified rocket attacks on Kabul and other cities in recent weeks, trying for a major victory before the summer fighting season ends, diplomats in Kabul said.

Babylon echoes to sound of music

BABYLON, Iraq, Sept. 23. (AP): The ancient city of Babylon, partially rebuilt by President Saddam Hussein, is echoing again to the sound of music and drama in a cultural festival that symbolises both the golden age of Iraq's history and the country's post-war reconstruction.

The festival opened last night with scores of Iraqi dancers leaping across a stage in the courtyard of the restored palace of King Nebuchadnezzar II, who ruled Babylon at the height of its glory 8,000 years ago.

The ballet, based on Babylonian music, told the story of the legendary city that was the centre of an empire in ancient Mesopotamia, or land between the rivers, the Euphrates and the Tigris.

Before an audience of 1,500, the 150 singers and dancers recounted how Babylon first rose on the banks of the Euphrates in the 18th century BC during the Amorite dynasty, achieved splendour under Nebuchadnezzar in the 6th century BC and was destroyed 200 years later by the Persians.

Now, Iraqis boast, Babylon has risen again under Saddam.

The opening performance featured songs written 6,000 years ago, and deciphered from ancient stone tablets.

Munir Bashir, the festival's chief director, said the ancient music was played primarily on harps, some of which have been found in Babylon's ruins.

Information Minister Latif Nissayif Jassim officially opened the festival "on behalf of President Saddam Hussein, builder of Iraq and Babylon ... city of glory and civilisation."

Saddam visited the city Friday and inspected preparations for the festival.

Saddam visited the city Friday and inspected preparations for the festival.

Religion forces many Israeli couples to make their wedding vows in Cyprus

NICOSIA, Sept. 23. (Reuters): Cyprus is the legendary home of the Greek goddess of love, but it is religion, not romance, that prompts hundreds of Israeli couples to make their wedding vows here.

For many, the short journey to the land of Aphrodite is a protest against what they see as the control over their personal lives exercised by the Jewish religious authorities in Israel, the ultra-orthodox rabbis.

In Israel, marriages may only be performed by religious authorities — Jewish, Muslim, Christian or Druse.

"It's religious coercion we're against," said a 25-year-old Israeli from near Tel Aviv applying for his marriage licence at Nicosia town hall dressed in T-shirt, shorts and sandals.

Couples pay between \$700 and \$1,000 to fly or sail to Cyprus, obtain a licence and honeymoon at a hotel on this Mediterranean holiday island. Nicosia and Tel Aviv travel agents offer package deals.

Israelis have been marrying in civil ceremonies here for years. Some seek a marriage banned by religious law — for example, with a member of another faith — although the majority could marry in Israel if they desired a religious ceremony.

"I don't want to say it's an industry but almost," says Tamar Leshem, head of Tel Aviv's independent office for human rights who sees 15 couples each week inquiring about civil marriage.

Nicosia deputy mayor Dr C.S. Christopoulos estimates he has married Israelis at some 230 civil weddings over the last three years — more than a third of the total.

Cyprus, where a majority are Greek Orthodox, is a haven for people in various Middle Eastern countries who want a civil marriage or who cannot marry at home.

There are no civil weddings in Israel, though such weddings contracted elsewhere are valid in the Jewish state.

Christopoulos, 60, said Cyprus was a natural choice for Israelis: "It's close. It's cheap. They stay here two to three days and have a nice time."

"We try to give it a little importance and ceremonial feeling. They seem to like it," he said.

"Sometimes they are moved and the ladies cry. Some of them just take it and there are no problems. Some come in jeans and knapsacks and some all dressed up in an official wedding dress," he said.

Israeli civil rights groups say young secular Israelis are increasingly unhappy with a form of government in the Jewish state that makes the main parties, Labour and Likud, beholden to demands of smaller religious parties.

The religious parties have persuaded Israeli governments to finance orthodox schools, ban flights by the national El Al Airline on the Jewish sabbath and consider passing a law redefining who is a Jew.

At Nicosia town hall the young Israeli said: "We keep some Jewish traditions. We don't eat meat and milk together. And we considered marrying religiously but we didn't want the religious procedures."

Some couples travel to Cyprus for marriages banned by Jewish law — where one partner is not Jewish, where the man is of a religious class deemed to be descended from the ancient Israelite priests and the woman is divorced, or where one of the partners lacks a religious divorce.

But Israeli civil rights activists say 60 per cent are motivated by conscience rather than necessity.

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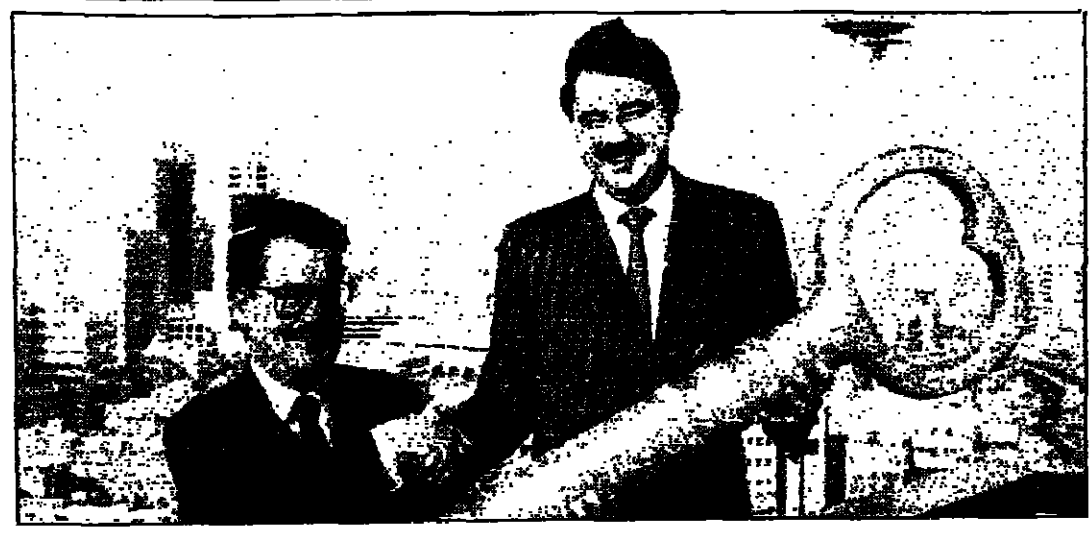
Prisoners begin hunger strike

RABAT, Sept. 23. (Reuters): Six Moroccan political prisoners started an unlimited hunger strike 10 days ago over worsening prison conditions, their families said yesterday.

Their statement said the men, all held in Sali prison on the Atlantic coast, had been denied the right to exercise, study, watch television, read newspapers, receive visits from relatives or have contact with other prisoners.

At least 12 Moroccan prisoners are now on hunger strike. Six prisoners are in hospitals in Rabat or Casablanca after fasting for more than three months to push demands for political status.

EVENTS



A key to success

At the Meridian Hotel, the outgoing General Manager (or General Manipulator) Andreas Mettmüller handed over the key to success and his executive chair (or jump seat) to his successor, Keaton Woods, on the highest point of the hotel, as both gentlemen decided to stay on 'top of things'. Mettmüller will be leaving the country to take over one of the sister hotels, Le Meridien Phuket in Thailand, at the beginning of October 1989.

Arabic News

Nuts

Sahmya

Hall Booked

Al Hamra

Arabic film

Drive-In

Arabic film

Al Firdous

Shriman Shrimati

Fahad Open

Maar Dhaad

Fahad

Lawless land

Al Jahra

Salam Ander

Grounds

Ustad

Sahabikhat

Mad Mission IV

Jeeb

Arabic film

'Bharat Mela - 1989'

TO mark the birth centenary of India's great leader and first Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, UMO, has decided to organise the following programmes in Kuwait, under the guidance and with close co-ordination of the Embassy of India.

Inauguration, women's seminar and music competition (vocal and instrumental) on Oct 6, 1989 at Indian Embassy Auditorium from 8.30 am.

Quiz, fancy dress competitions and a symposium on Nehru topics on Oct 13, 1989 from 9.00 am at Indian Embassy Auditorium.

Concluding function, prize distribution and entertainment programme on Nov 3, 1989 from 4.00 pm.

Quiz, musical (vocal and instrumental), fancy dress competitions upto the age group of 16 are meant exclusively for children of

Indian Schools (girls and boys). Quiz competition entries will be team wise (one team for one school). Five students may constitute one team. Quiz, music (vocal and instrumental) competitions will be conducted in two groups as follows:

Standard V to VIII (Group 1)
Standard IX to XII (Group 2)
Fancy dress competition will be divided into three groups, as follows:
Students of KG-IV (Group 1)
Standard V to X (Group 2)
Adults of age above 16 (Group 3)

All entries are free of charge. One student may compete for more than one item. The entries by the students may please be registered through the respective school authority on or before Sept 30.

For more details contact telephones: 3918735, 4330159, 5615133.

The executive meeting held under the chairmanship of R.V. Hyder Ali, elected the following as co-ordinators for the success of the "Bharat Mela."

Aby Varicad (general councillor), Thomas Kuravilla, Yousef Thadikulam (women's seminar), Davadas Papinassary, Nissar Ahmed (music vocal), Prem Kumar, Abdul Parambil (music instrumental), F.V. Morris, Rajan Dhandu (quiz competition), K. Siddique, Pandalam Basheer (Nehru symposium), Kunjahamed, Regan John (fancy dress competition), Sakthikulangara Williams, Thomas Chomdy (entertainment programme), Baby Vadakenath (convenor, finance committee).

TV

9.00 Opening and Holy

9.15 Sabah Al Khair News

9.20 Varieties

9.30 Cartoons

10.00 Magazine D'Actualite

10.15 Arabic daily Serial:

Mawlood Fi Al Waqt

Al Daye

11.00 Sabah Al Khair News

11.05 Sabah Al Khair

Varieties

11.15 Local serial: Ajlah

Wamlah

12.05 Sabah Al Khair News

12.10 Varieties

12.15 That's Incredible

1.00 News in Brief

1.05 Holy Quran & Closed-

own

Evening

4.15 World Today via

Satellite

4.45 Cartoon serial: Chil-

dren Tales

5.15 Cartoons

6.15 Arabic serial: Nihayat

Sief

7.25 Agricultural Magazine

8.00 Varieties

8.15 Local programme:

Shuara Al-Nabt

9.00 Arabic News

9.45 Arabic daily serial:

Wajidah Wa Samah

10.30 Local variety pro-

gramme

12.00 News in Brief

12.05 World Today via

Satellite

12.30 Holy Quran & Closed-

own

activity

8.00 News in English

8.30 Flying Doctors. "Re-

peat Performance"

The town celebrates its

annual anniversary

along with the

marriage of "Emma"

and doctor "Sam"

while "Charlie" was

on a mission and she

has to return walking

on her feet because of

rain.

9.30 Supersense. "Super

scent"

The sense of

smell ... How animals

depend on sense of

smell more than

human beings.

10.00 Kate And Alice. "Kid"

a tinsmith proposes to

Kate, who accepts his

proposal willingly ...

But she changes her

mind ... Why?

10.30 Bestseller. "The Last

Bestseller"

The details

and steps taken by the

Australians towards

their participation in

the World War II

against the Japanese

invasion.

12.00 News in Brief

12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Fluctuations inclined to be weak

Market turns mixed again

THE Alshali Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday Sept 20, an average of 40.05 points with an increase of 0.20 point - 0.50 per cent - over last week's average of Wednesday September 13. The Alshali Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 68.62 with an increase of 0.14 point - 0.20 per cent - for the same period, according to Alshali weekly market report.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 31.1 million shares at a daily average of 6.22 million shares with a decrease of 2 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 6.34 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 6.68 million shares at a daily average of 1.336 million shares with an increase of 206 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.436 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD9.15 million at a daily average of KD1.83 million, a decrease of 44 per cent from last week's daily average of KD2.6 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.276 million at a daily average of KD0.055 million, an increase of 323 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.013 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 42 per cent of total trading against 78 per cent last week.

The Commercial Bank had the lead 24 per cent followed by The Gulf Bank at 23 per cent and Burean Bank at 22 per cent. The investment sector came second at 32 per cent in which Kuwait Investment Projects Company had the lead at 88 per cent followed by Commercial Facilities Company at 7 per cent and National Investments Company at 3 per cent.

The services sector came third at 22 per cent in which Mobile Telephone Systems Company had the lead at 87 per cent followed by The Public Warehousing Company at 8 per cent and Kuwait Commercial Markets Complex at 5 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market Arabian General Investment Company (SHUAA) had the lead at 47 per cent followed by Bahrain International Bank at 30 per cent and Gulf Medical Projects Company at 14 per cent.

Market performance continues to show mixed signs. Indicators in the Kuwaiti shares market fluctuated slightly around the average.

The non-Kuwaiti market however, gave positive signs after an extensive period of weakness. The recent developments of the market could be described as a careful reaction to the possible increase in share prices due to the previously stated reasons.

Market analysts are able to observe that the response to the external stimulations is likely to decrease through time which is a sign of awareness or unprofitability experience of market investors.

We believe that although the market will continue to respond to such stimulations, the responses will be weaker. These could only come if a general understanding is reached that such reactions are ineffective and the flow of declarations aiming at activating the market, are no longer achieving their goals.

Kuwait shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 20/09/89	Wed. 13/09/89	Change points
Banking Sector	123.82	123.82	—
The National Bank	123.82	123.82	—

The Gulf Bank	33.69	33.25	0.44
The Commercial Bank	24.59	24.15	0.44
Al Ahli Bank	32.80	33.30	-0.50
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	31.44	31.44	—
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	28.29	28.71	-0.43
Burean Bank	28.10	27.58	0.52
Kuwait Finance House	79.92	79.10	0.82
Overall Index	40.05	39.85	0.20
Investment Sector	12.86	13.59	-0.73
Kuwait Investment Co.	10.31	10.65	-0.34
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	48.90	48.90	—
JFA	132.00	126.50	5.50
Commercial Facilities	58.82	60.78	-1.96
National Investments	93.26	91.01	2.25
Kuwait Investment Proj.	31.59	31.57	0.02
Services Sector	37.08	36.48	0.60
Kuwait Insurance Co.	23.85	23.85	—
Gulf Insurance Co.	46.77	46.77	—
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.	58.42	58.42	—
Warba Insurance Co.	38.33	38.02	0.31
Real Estate Sector	16.31	16.31	—
Kuwait Real Estate	5.16	5.10	0.06
United Realty	35.44	35.44	—
National Real Estate	73.02	73.02	—
Pearl of Kuwait	18.37	18.34	0.03
Industrial Sector	10.91	10.91	—
Kuwait Cement Co.	83.45	80.16	3.29
Refrigeration Indust.	113.13	113.13	—
Gulf Cables	70.22	70.22	—
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	28.82	28.81	0.01
Food Sector	170.64	162.00	8.64
Barfoun Sector	8.56	8.56	—
Kuwait Computer Co.	69.70	67.68	2.02
Kuwait Cinema Co.	36.37	36.37	—
Public Warehousing Co.	323.81	304.76	19.05
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	58.22	58.09	0.13
Mobile Telephone Syst.	30.51	30.51	—
Food Sector	10.34	10.62	-0.28
Livestock Trd. & Transp.	110.01	110.01	—
United Poultry	70.11	70.11	—
Kuwait Food Co.	38.10	38.20	-0.10
Sector Index	40.05	39.85	0.20
Overall Index	68.62	68.48	0.14

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 20/09/89	Wed. 13/09/89	Change points
First Gulf Bank	223.68	223.68	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank	89.66	89.66	—
Bahrain M. East Bank	87.32	87.32	—
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	78.10	78.10	—
Arabian Gen. Inv. (SHUAA)	43.94	43.18	0.76
Umm Al Quain Cement	16.87	16.87	—
Gulf Medical Projects	21.78	21.78	—
Total Index	68.62	68.48	0.14

—Base period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Menem to promote economic reforms

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 23, (Reuters): Argentine President Carlos Menem will use next week's five-day visit to the United States to promote the success of his far-reaching economic reform programme.

On Wednesday, as Menem meets President George Bush — his first encounter with a major Western leader — Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo will have a landmark meeting with British Foreign Secretary John Major.

Diplomatic sources say the private talks will be a major step forward in the normalisation of relations served during the 1982 Falklands war between the two countries.

Formal talks on re-establishing links, which will leave aside Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the islands, are set for October 17 in Madrid following exploratory meeting in New York last month.

Foreign Ministry sources said Menem, who will address the United Nations on Monday, is expected to stress the early successes of his so-called "production revolution" which slashed inflation to 37.9 per cent in August from July's record 196.6 per cent.

His visit, which begins tomorrow, coincides with the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank and he will be accompanied by economy minister Nestor Rapanelli, businessmen and bankers.

In a letter of intent due to be endorsed by the IMF this week, Argentina has set a 15 per cent inflation target for next year, predicted economic growth of four to five per cent in 1990 and promised massive cuts in the soaring public sector deficit.

IMF support for the Peronist government's economic programme is vital for the release of a \$1.5 billion fund standby loan which would give the green light for restructuring foreign debt.

Argentina has run up arrears of \$4.4 billion since it stopped paying interest on its \$60-billion debt in April last year.

Buyer-seller meet

THE Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited (a Government of India undertaking) is to organise an exhibition-cum-buyer seller meet at Hotel Hyatt Regency in Dubai from Oct 1 to 5, 1989 around 200 kgs of gold jewellery for likely sale to wholesalers and traders only. Those interested may contact the above-mentioned hotel or Consulate General of India, Dubai (telephone Nos. 220201, 220202), according to an Indian embassy press release.

Similar type of exhibition will be held in Kuwait from Nov 9 to 15, 1989, by the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited.

Steps to curb dollar

Rich nations meet dividend

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23, (Reuters): Ministers from the world's leading industrial nations met in Washington today determined to prevent the dollar spiralling out of control but divided on whether action should be taken to lower its value.

Finance ministers and central bank chiefs from the Group of Seven (G-7) countries were also expected to stick to their current strategy on how to deal with the \$1.3 trillion third world debt crisis, despite criticism from poorer nations that they are not doing enough.

Officials from the group of five nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France and Britain — held preliminary talks for two hours today before being joined by colleagues from Italy and Canada.

Japan and the United States have both said the dollar's current level is too high to redress the imbalances in global trade which threaten world financial stability.

West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel also took this view when he spoke to journalists just before today's talks. "I have always said that the dollar rate stands in the way of the world economic adjustment process and does not help reduce imbalances," he said.

But British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Nigel Lawson said last week the dollar's level was tolerable and there would only be a problem if it strengthened further.

Even within the West German delegation there appeared to be differences of opinion about whether there was a need to make a strong stance on the dollar capable of curbing financial markets when they reopen next week.

Karl Otto Poehl, the president of the powerful West German Central Bank, the Bundesbank, told journalists he was more worried about weakness of the German mark.

"In some cases it would be desirable if the mark were stronger. That is saying something else than the dollar is too high," he said.

This wording is similar to a G-7 declaration made in Washington last April.

The G-7 officials will also map out their future strategy on the debt crisis ahead of next week's

Strong plea for more help

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23, (Reuters): The world's poorer countries are preparing to issue a strong plea today for more help from the richer nations to ease the crushing burden of Third World debt, according to a draft document.

Finance ministers and officials from 24 developing nations were meeting today in Washington, where the International Monetary Fund and World Bank hold their annual joint meeting next week.

A draft copy of recommendations made by officials to their ministers, obtained by Reuters, calls for a substantial widening of the existing strategy for tackling the Third World debt crisis.

But the main industrial nations, whose finance officials were also meeting in Washington, were considered unlikely to back any new initiatives for reducing Third World debt, which totals \$1.3 trillion.

The developing countries, while welcoming recent debt initiatives, believe economic and social conditions have deteriorated in heavily indebted countries and "insisted strongly on further measures by creditors and international financial institutions," the document said.

Measures could include reducing real interest rates and extending grace periods on loans as well as steps to help low and middle-income countries in debt to international bodies.

They could also include extending debt relief to more countries than the 13 poor sub-Saharan countries covered by a plan agreed by industrial nations last year in Toronto.

The document said that while overall indebtedness of developing countries has declined by 0.3 per cent this year "the debt burden continues to be considerable because of the lack of growth in debtor countries."

Third World nations believe official creditors — governments and bodies like the World Bank — should play a bigger role in debt reduction.

"The principle of burden sharing must apply to private and official creditors as well as between creditors and debtors," the draft said.

The G-24 is a group of developing nations that meets before IMF gatherings to co-ordinate strategy on subjects of concern to the Third World.

The recommendations also make a strong statement against excessive conditions being placed by the World Bank on loans to the Third World countries on environmental grounds.

The deputies were expected to welcome World Bank technical assistance on the environment while rejecting any additional loan conditions related to conservation.

The G-7 officials were expected to issue a statement today and a Japanese financial official said both Washington and Tokyo would stress that a rise of the dollar or an excessive fall would be detrimental to the reduction of international trade imbalances.

This wording is similar to a G-7 declaration made in Washington last April.

The G-7 officials will also map out their future strategy on the debt crisis ahead of next week's

autumn meeting of the international Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Delegates have indicated they will do no more than reaffirm proposals drawn up this year by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady which have already led to agreements on reducing the debt burden of Mexico and the Philippines.

According to one West German source, "there is neither the need nor the scope for new initiatives."

Iraq to triple oil exports

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23, (AP): The government of Iraq, in a major development this week, has opened a new crude oil terminal on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast, reports said here today.

According to the Washington Post, the terminal puts Iraq in a position to triple its current crude oil exports through Saudi Arabia, a route chosen during the Gulf war years to evade Iranian attacks.

The terminal is fed by an oil pipeline that crosses 900 miles of Arabian desert from well fields near Basra and Zubair in southern Iraq. The first tanker to call on the terminal, the Al Qadisiyah, finished loading Monday.

Today, according to the Post, Iraqi technicians and foreign construction companies are working at breakneck speed to repair Iraq's offshore oil-loading terminals at the northern end of the Gulf.

Switzerland tops per capita income in Europe surges

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23, (AP): Citizens of eight West European countries, led by Switzerland, earned more than the average American in 1988, according to figures made available by the World Bank yesterday.

Switzerland's per capita income was \$20,130 last year compared with the United States' \$14,080. Other countries were: Luxembourg, \$19,960; Sweden, \$17,160; Iceland, \$16,480; West Germany, \$15,880; Norway, \$15,250; Denmark, \$14,530 and France, \$14,130.

Japan was still some distance behind with an average of \$12,480. But its increase over the previous year — \$700 — was considerably greater than that of the United States — \$430.

The comparisons are given in terms of the price of the dollar in 1980, and corrected for inflation since then. No figures were available for the relative costs of living in the countries.

There may be some different figures at the end of this year, since the dollar has been rising in recent months. The drop of the value of the dollar was in part the deliberate policy of the United States and its major financial allies. The dollar started to drop in 1985, and they agreed in September to push it down further.

The object of driving down the dollar — often by massive government sales of American

currency — was to make US goods cheaper in world markets and to put up the price of foreign goods in this country. That was expected to reduce the big surplus of US imports over exports, which increases the US foreign debt. The policy has had some success.

But the recent rise of the dollar has led some experts to complain the co-operation has broken down among the Group of Seven (G-7): the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada. They had pledged increased co-operation on the world economy, including the possibility of changes in domestic policy to help reach common goals.

"The G-7 co-ordination process is a sham," J. Fred Bergsten, former assistant secretary of the Treasury said last week.

Future co-operation is expected to be the major topic when Baker's successor at the Treasury, Nicholas F. Brady, meets his counterparts from the six allies today. It will be part of the annual meetings of the World Bank and its sister organisation, the International Monetary Fund.

The meetings, which began on Thursday and last for a week, are bringing together representatives of the 152 countries that own the two bodies, and their biggest banks.

US consumer price index up

W. German capital investment and services surge

MOST of the economic news released during the past month went to show that the US economy had not slowed down as much as had been feared previously. Moreover, the news on the inflation front was also reassuring, pointing to the taming of inflation and possibly the beginning of its decline, according to IBK Interest and Exchange Rate Monitor.

Second quarter GNP growth revised upwards to 2.7 per cent from the previous 1.7 per cent estimate principally due to a large upwards revision in consumer expenditure while the GDP deflator was revised slightly downwards to 4.6 per cent.

The monthly statistics for July showed that growth was continuing into the third quarter. After falling for two months, industrial output rose 0.2 per cent in July while capacity utilization held steady at 83.6 per cent. However, production of both autos and consumer durables fell. Orders for non-defence capital goods, considered a barometer of business investment plans, rose 5 per cent in July following a similar increase the previous month.

New jobs in July were 184,000 keeping unemployment steady at 5.2 per cent, while housing starts grew 0.8 per cent, a sign that lower mortgage rates may be invigorating the industry. However, the housing market was emitting conflicting signals since building permits fell. Retail sales increased, boosted by auto incentives.

The best news was about the consumer and producer price indexes. The CPI rose only 0.2 per cent in July, like June because of falling energy prices. Excluding energy and food, inflation rose 0.4 per cent. The CPI rise equates to an annual rate of 2.9 per cent but large increases earlier in the year make the annual rate 5.5 per cent so far. The July PPI fell 0.4 per cent, after a June fall of 0.6 per cent, again heavily affected by falling energy and car prices.

However, inflation is not completely tamed as labour costs are still increasing at a lively rate with average hourly earnings increasing 0.8 per cent in July after 0.2 per cent in June.

The June merchandise trade deficit also served to banish fears of a recession as exports rose to a record and imports fell leading to the smallest monthly figure for more than 4 years. The \$8.17 billion in June represented a sharp drop from the unusually \$10.08 billion in May. On a quarterly basis the trade deficit also declined compared with the first three months of the year as exports rose 21 per cent and imports 11 per cent. The export recovery is being led by consumer goods and the improvement has occurred mainly vis-a-vis W. Europe and not Japan.

The boom in the West German economy continued with the revision of the GNP statistics indicating growth of 3.9 per cent in the second quarter over the

previous year. Consumer prices were higher than in the first quarter and rose 3.4 per cent year on year.

The main surge was in capital investment and services while construction, retail sales and manufacturing output were all lower than the first quarter. However, industry orders are still firm with orders during June-July rising 10.6 per cent from the previous year with domestic orders being stronger than foreign ones. GNP growth is expected to hold steady or weaken slightly during Q3 with an overall rate of 3 per cent predicted for 1989.

However, in view of the performance so far, this rate may possibly be exceeded, indicating that the danger of inflation has not receded.

So far, the news on prices had been more reassuring. Producer prices rose 0.1 per cent in July (3 per cent year-on-year) while wholesale prices fell 0.9 per cent. The cost of living index, the main measure of inflation fell slightly to 2.9 per cent in July from 3.1 per cent the month before. However, the official forecast is that domestic factors of high capacity utilization and high liquidity will continue to keep inflation at around 3 per cent for the year and there is the possibility that wage increases could speed it up. Although M3 growth slowed in June due to the repeal of the withholding tax, making longer term investments attractive, it recovered again to 4.9 per cent in

July, only slightly below its target of 5 per cent.

The repeal of the tax also brought about the first sizeable surplus in the capital account for more than 2 years in June. Likewise, a series of record surpluses this year brought the trade surplus up to DM70.36 billion in the first half of the year, 19 per cent larger than the previous year although imports rose slightly faster than exports.

The effects on the Japanese economy, occurring in the two or three months before and after the imposition of the consumption tax in April, appear to be largely over. On a month on month basis wholesale price inflation, along with consumer prices, has subsided thanks to falling oil prices and weaker general domestic goods prices.

Consumer prices fell in July from June for the second consecutive month but are still running at a 3 per cent level year on year, much higher than the fraction of a percentage point recorded in 1988.

Meanwhile, consumption expenditure has also recovered its normal pace, and together with robust corporate fixed investment have continued to fuel the economy.

The employment situation improved further with the ration of job openings to seekers rising to 1.34 in June from 1.27.

Meanwhile, the trade surplus has continued to shrink standing at \$5.99 in July, 16.5 per cent lower than the same month last

year. This was the third consecutive decline and is being attributed to the J-curve effect which makes Japan's imports dearer and its exports cheaper as the yen depreciates, booming domestic demand and slowing US economic growth. In particular, auto exports to the US have been declining as Japan shifted more of its production to joint ventures in the United States.

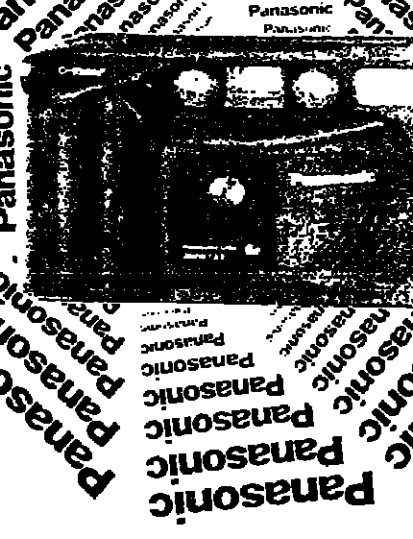
The UK economy is well into a slowdown as a result of the increase in interest rates. Inflation may have peaked but the bad news on the July current account deficit continues to pose some thorny problems.

A sign that inflation may have peaked was the first decline in the retail price index in 19 months registering 8.2 per cent inflation in July down from 8.3 per cent in June. Further declines are expected next month as the mortgage rate increases of the past year fall out of the annual index.

However, labour costs still present a threat with wage settlements currently running at 8.8 per cent while productivity gains in manufacturing were only at 7.2 per cent in 1989. Productivity gains in the services sector are much lower and it is this sector which is most worrisome. Some commentators are advocating a cut in mortgage rates, one of the principal indicators which unions refer to in their wage negotiations.

(Continued on Page 14)

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ناشيونال باناسونيك كاميراس

Expatriate remittances on the rise

Jordan to ask to reschedule its debts

AMMAN, Jordan, Sept. 23, (AP): Finance Minister Basel Jaradat said funds sent home by Jordanians abroad have increased rapidly in recent months and should reach \$850 million this year, a newspaper reported today.

Jaradat told the daily Sawt Ash-Shaab that remittances from the more than 375,000 Jordanian expatriates, a key source of foreign currency, were still expected to fall below the \$900 million recorded last year.

But the \$850 million projection is a notable improvement from the \$800 million officials had counted on in July, when the decline of the Jordanian dinar stifled remittances.

Remittances in the mid-1980s sometimes exceeded \$1.2 billion.

"Initial indications were that transfers had sharply declined in the first half of this

year, but the third quarter has witnessed a great increase in those transfers," Jaradat told the newspaper.

Remittances improved along with the dinar, which bounced back to almost \$1.50 from \$1 in a few weeks due to grants from Gulf states and the rescheduling of part of Jordan's \$8.3-billion debt.

Jaradat said Jordanian expatriates were buying property in Jordan and noted sale of property accelerated in July and August, a period when expatriate Jordanians return in July and August, a period when expatriate Jordanians return home on vacation.

Jaradat, who was in Washington today for talks with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, said talks with lenders had let Jordan reschedule payment of \$1.373 billion of the 1.725 billion due this year and next.

The agreements stretch the payments over 11 years after a five-year grace period.

Jaradat said Jordan would soon ask to reschedule its debts due in 1991 and 1992.

Earlier this month, he told the Associated Press that foreign currency reserves in August exceeded \$550 million, up from about 20 million in mid-February.

Meanwhile, budget department director Ali Gharaybeh told Sawt Ash-Shaab that the upcoming budget was not expected to exceed 1.1 billion dinars (\$1.6 billion).

That is roughly the same as the 1988 budget in dinar terms, but a reduction in terms of the dollar due to the dinar's slip since early this year.

"It is austere," Gharaybeh said.

Jaradat told the newspaper that the government expects to lift its ban on luxury imports, but hinted that it might

impose higher taxes on them.

The banned imports include cars, television sets, videos, cameras, refrigerators, airconditioners, home furniture, granite, kitchen and office supplies, chandeliers, home furniture, granite, kitchen and office supplies, chandeliers and other items.

The government said then it expected the ban to save more than \$200 million in foreign exchange.

Jaradat told the newspaper that he and Central Bank Governor Mohammed Said Nabulsi were contacting Gulf banks to agree on depositing funds with the Central Bank of Jordan.

He said that would "greatly help promote our foreign reserves and provide further stability to the value of the dinar."

Nabulsi earlier estimated the deposit might be about \$500 million.

Lanka tea industry hit by mounting violence

COLOMBO, Sept. 23, (Kuna): Mounting violence in the southern and central parts of Sri Lanka has severely affected the tea industry, a major foreign exchange earner, according to sources here.

The sources at a leading tea broking firm in Colombo said, the Sinhalese extremists have in the recent weeks targeted the tea industry setting fire to tea factories and burning of lorries carrying tea.

Over 250,000 kilos of tea have been destroyed so far in the southern and central province estates and at least eight state-owned tea factories have been torched by the Sinhalese extremists of the JVP, or People's Liberation Front, the sources said. Many factories, both state and private-owned, have already closed down owing to extremist threats, they said.

Since middle of this month, thousands of workers in the tea plantations in the south-central Uva region have gone on strike demanding a wage of 2,500 rupees (\$65) per month and security officials in Colombo have no doubt the JVP's trade union wing, the Joint Action Front, was behind the strike.

The workers returned to work yesterday, but the sources said, the economy, already battered by the violence, has lost over \$3 million due to the strike.

In addition, they said, the country was losing over \$2.5 million per week due to shortage in tea supply at the auctions in Colombo.

"This is very unfortunate since at this moment our tea is fetching high prices," said the sources. "At this rate we are going to lose much needed foreign exchange."

Korea plans trade fair

THIS is the first time, Korea is planning to organise a trade fair in Kuwait after 15 years. The exhibition will be held in Kuwait International Hotel from Oct 15-19, '89, according to an embassy press release.

The exhibition will feature, a wide range of excellent Korean products from leading Korean companies and will provide a great business opportunity for prospective buyers who are looking for reliable suppliers from Korea.

According to the director of commercial section of Korean embassy, D.R. Jahng, the exhibition will be successful. He added, that if this exhibition is successful, efforts will be made to organise such fairs in future also.

Bonn foresees stronger growth

Consumer demand soars

BONN, Sept. 23, (Reuters): West Germany should enjoy stronger growth, increased consumer demand and a broader tax base in the 1990s as a result of the waves of ethnic German emigrants arriving from Eastern Europe, a government study said yesterday.

Between two and 3.5 million ethnic Germans are expected to leave Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union by the year 2000 to join West Germany's 61 million people, according to the study by the Institute of the German Economy.

"These German emigrants are welcome here. They represent a large and many-faceted profit for our country and for us all," government spokesman Hans Klein told a news conference to present the study.

West Germany's annual growth rate through the year 2000, now estimated at 2.5 per cent, should rise to between 2.8 and three per cent if most or all of Eastern Europe's remaining German minority emigrates here, the study said.

Depending on how many arrive, West Germany's gross national product should be between 84 and 154 billion marks

(\$42 and 77 billion) richer by the year 2000, it said.

The gross national product was 2,129 billion marks (\$1,064 billion) last year.

The Federal Press Office commissioned the study from the institute, which is funded by the two main employers' groups here, as part of a government drive to counter public fears that the emigrants would hurt West Germany's booming economy.

It focused on the ethnic Germans, 235,000 of whom have already arrived this year, and left out the smaller group of more than 100,000 East German refugees due here this year.

These ethnic Germans, some of whose forefathers left Germany more than 200 years ago, are generally less educated than the East Germans and often no longer speak German.

According to the study, employers organisations here, especially welcomed young emigrants as a useful counterweight to West Germany's shrinking pool of young workers.

Although 39 per cent of the emigrants are unemployed, only about 15 per cent should be without a job by 1995, said one of the

study's authors, Otto Vogel. Their jobless rate should reach the national average of around eight per cent by the year 2000.

The study found no prejudice against the emigrants, in contrast to growing resentment against them that other social scientists have identified as a key factor in the rise of the extreme right-wing Republicans Party this year.

I made no projections about the tight housing market, where preferential treatment for emigrants has aroused considerable resentment among Republicans voters.

Over the next four years, the ethnic German emigrants should add another 100 billion marks (\$50 billion) of demand for consumer goods, housing and services, the study said.

From 1995, their tax payments will rise into the billions of marks, easily paying off the initial costs of settling them here, giving them job training and providing language lessons.

The emigrants will add from 252 to 364 billion marks (\$126 to 182 billion) more to overall tax revenues than the government originally expected to take in between now and the year 2000, the study said.

Average Japanese savings top \$68,700

TOKYO, Sept. 23, (AP): The average Japanese household's savings topped 10 million yen (\$68,700) for the first time this year, up 10.6 per cent from the previous year, according to news reports today.

The reports quoted a survey conducted by the Bank of Japan in June and July as saying the average Japanese household's savings, including stocks and bank deposits, totalled 10.13 million yen (\$69,600).

However, 80 per cent of 4,248 households polled said their savings — 16 per cent of the 5.31 million-yen (\$36,500) average annual income — were not enough.

In comparison, the average household in the United States saved 5.6 per cent, while that of Britain saved only 0.8 per cent.

The United States has criticised excessive savings in Japan as discouraging consumption, particularly of products exported from America.

Some 20.8 per cent of the households had more than 15 million yen (\$103,100) in savings, while roughly half and less than 7 million yen (\$48,100).

The increase of savings reflected growth in personal income, more awareness of the need to have savings for retirement and the wide variety of investment venues available to the public, reports in the mass-circulation Asahi Shimbun and Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspapers quoted the committee as saying.

The Bank of Japan was closed today, a national holiday.

The reports quoted the committee as saying some 80 per cent of those responding to the survey said their main reason for saving was to be prepared for a serious illness.

The second-most important incentive was saving for retirement, and accounted for 51.5 per cent. Saving to buy real estate was 17.7 per cent.

Japanese post office officials provide savings services much like those of commercial banks. In contrast, the proportion of investment in insurance, stocks and bonds rose to 40.2 per cent.

Indian rupee	17,970
Sri Lankan rupee	7,600
Pakistani rupee	14,370
Bangladesh taka	9,220
US dollar	300.30
Pound sterling	475.00
Deutsche mark	154.70
UAE dirham	0.8173
Japanese yen	0.02076

KD deposit rates firm in active trade

KUWAIT, Sept. 23, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit rates firmed in active trade today as banks bought government treasury bills on the secondary market, draining excess liquidity.

Dealers said the Central Bank offered treasury bills maturing on November 29 and December 6 at 8-1/4 per cent in a bid to soak up excess funds from end-of-month salary payments.

Quotes for tomorrow-next rose sharply to 8-1/2, 7-3/4 per cent from 7-3/4, 6-3/4 on Thursday. Gulf banks are shut during the Muslim Friday weekend.

Spot-next and one-week funds both firmed 1/2 point to 8-1/2, 7-3/4 and 8-1/2, eight respectively.

Quotes for the one-month rose to 8-1/2, 1/4 per cent from 8-1/8, 7-7/8 on Thursday, with deals reported at 8-1/4.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 23/09/1989			
S.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
9	Super Stars	Algh Barwil	4842988
10	Dairy Maru	Al Rashed	2422026
11	AS Okan	Sawan	4746018
13	Maersk Fiero	Behbehani	2412085
15	Bijiang	M. Bahar	2433881
18	Cheekay	GHI&Q	4347815
21	Alyasrah	L. Stock	2434177

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
S.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
23/9	Hyundai No. 8	Algh Barwil	4842988
24/9	Ivan Pervezhev	Al Rashed	2422026
24/9	Norasia Arabia	Emad	4841807

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT			
S.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Golden Sea	RMS	2423642
6	Hargevan	Algh Barwil	4842988
9	Pelagos	Algh S. Freight	2425151
14	Camellia Estrella	United	2457958
18	Y. S. Prosperity	Al Rashed	2422026

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT			
S.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
21/9	Frinton	GHI Qutub	4347815
22/9	Kongo Maru	Algh Barwil	4842988
22/9	Igenious	ISA	2441860

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West German capital investment and services surge

(Continued from Page 13)

After slight improvements in May and June, the current account widened in July to \$2.1 billion, the second largest monthly deficit on record. This brings the current account deficit for the first seven months of this year to \$11.35 billion, compared to a revised gap of \$14.66 billion for all of 1988. The figure put paid to any notions of lower UK interest rates, which are now badly needed to support sterling, and so the danger of a 1970s style wage-price spiral is becoming more of a possibility.

August has been a very volatile month for the dollar but the underlying mood remains bullish despite repeated intervention by central banks. From a low of 1.865 the currency reached highs of 1.967 and spent most of the month in the 1.90-1.96 range.

The main force that seems to be supporting the dollar continues to be the perception that the US economy is achieving a soft landing and the release of economic statistics is eagerly awaited to determine if a recession is in the offing.

It is also buoyed up by high US interest rates and even more by the generally held expectation that the Fed has no intention of easing in the near future.

Economic activity is still healthy enough not to make easing an absolute necessity and inflation, while moderating, has not yet moved into a no-danger zone.

The DM generally retreated against the dollar but held firm against mark and sterling during August. Since the weakening currency continues to put pressure on import prices there has been increasing speculation that the Bundesbank will increase interest rates to strengthen the DM.

Although the July cost of living index decreased to an annual rate of 2.9 per cent, inflation is expected to be at least 3 per cent during 1989, above 1 per cent for 1988. GNP growth is stronger than had been forecast originally.

A high capacity utilisation, a tight labour market which exhibits severe bottlenecks in some areas, increasing industrial output and a robust rate of money supply growth all tend

towards strengthening inflation pressures.

A weakening currency can only serve to exacerbate these pressures. In view of the Bundesbank's consistently anti-inflation policy, and the last two surprise hikes, it is fair to say that a further half-point increase is still on the cards.

Despite repeated intervention by the Bank of Japan the yen has continued to weaken. Political uncertainty in Japan continues to plague the currency, prompting the country's senior finance officials to reiterate their determination to defend the flagging currency regardless of the cost to the Treasury.

However, intervention seems to have had little success in view of the general loss of confidence in the yen as well as a perception that currency co-ordination among the G-7 has broken down. The sheer size of the foreign exchange market makes it very difficult for central banks, let alone any one bank, to reverse the tide of market sentiment.

High UK interest rates seem to be the only factor buoying sterling this month. This was emphasised when it weakened

against the DM upon rumours of a German rate rise. Market sentiment has turned against sterling and for good reason. The UK's massive (relative to the size of its economy) current account deficit shows every sign of surpassing last year's £14 billion, probably reaching as high as £18 billion.

The sterling was badly shaken by release of the figure for the July trade deficit which soared to £2.46 billion from £1.92 billion in June. The current account deficit, also the second largest on record, was £2.06 billion from £1.81 billion in June due to a surplus on the services account. Only large-scale intervention by the Bank of England managed to support the currency.

In view of this situation, there is no sign the UK monetary policy will be eased soon, at least up to the first quarter of 1990. However, the outlook for sterling is uncertain namely, whether it will fall or be held steady. A depreciating currency would only increase the UK's already high inflation rate, or at best prevent it from declining, by putting pressure on import prices. Yet a study by Goldman Sachs

Bond market softens

US equities move ahead

FOLLOWING a rash of rumours and numerous comments by key policymakers of the need for a lower dollar, market makers hesitated ahead of the G7 and IMF/World Bank meetings. Having faltered at the DM2.00 level last Friday the dollar lost ground on the week, according to NBK weekly market report.

Data releases this week continue to testify to moderating economic activity and with the CPI unchanged, subdued inflationary pressure. Interpretation of numbers by the market implied lower US interest rates for the future. Consequently the bond market softened and equities moved slightly ahead.

The dollar ended the week at DM1.948 and Yen 145.7.

The market sold the dollar down wary ahead of this coming week's meetings. In the event "we expect a continued statement to the need for stable exchange rates and a suggested comment on the requirement for a lower dollar. Without corresponding policy action by changes in interest rates the market is unlikely to take heed, and we expect the dollar for the immediate term to once again gain ground. Until there is decisive Federal Reserve action to lower interest rates and higher rates elsewhere, thereby eroding the interest rate differential, the dollar's reasonably established bull trend for the short-term will continue."

Trading ranges for the coming week are DM1.93-1.98 and Yen 144-148.

The sterling market over the last week has been extremely tranquil with movements largely reflecting the dollar's oscillations. Sterling gained ground against the dollar but remained within a tight range on the crosses.

Few data releases this week, but those that were announced gave cause for concern with the public sector finances significantly down on the year and money supply and credit numbers as yet little altered by the current high interest rate policy. Equities were relatively unchanged on the month.

Sterling ended the week at DM3.06 and £/\$1.57.

The market likely to remain reasonably quiet with greater emphasis on the outcome of this week's G7 meetings. Key data releases in the UK for the coming week will be the monthly trade numbers. These are expected to be slightly down on last month's appalling figures, although will provide little room for complacency being within the £1.5-2.0 billion range.

However, whilst interest rates remain where they are for the foreseeable future sterling should continue to be well supported.

Trading ranges will correspondingly be tight at DM3.04-

3.07 and £/\$1.54-1.59.

At the much awaited Bundesbank meeting this week as predicted, officials failed to raise their official interest rates prior to the G7 and IMF/World Bank meetings. However, they left little doubt in the subsequent statement that the major concern remains on the extent of economic activity and the possibility of rising inflation.

Consequently the need to firm monetary policy as we go into the autumn continues to be our central forecast.

Second quarter GNP numbers contracted by an annualised 3.1 per cent reflecting slowdown in private consumption and exports. The decline reflected the introduction in April of the 3 per cent consumption tax and therefore does not alter our central forecast for this year.

Real GNP for second quarter this year was revised downwards from 2.7 to an estimated 2.5 per cent and compared with 3.7 per cent for the first quarter.

GNP price deflator remained unchanged at 4.6 per cent annualised for second quarter and compares with 4 per cent for the previous quarter.

Consumer price index was unchanged for August, rising on an unadjusted basis by 4.7 per cent on the year and annualised to 4.8 per cent for this year as a whole. This compares with a 4.4 per cent rise for 1988.

Consumer price index was

Recession worries won't go away

Profits down

NEW YORK, Sept. 23, (AP): Despite impressive evidence lately of continued economic growth, some Wall Streeters are not yet convinced that the threat of a recession has been completely neutralised.

If a business slump should set in, they contend, the stock market is in danger of being caught off guard. After all, they say, the stock market is just three weeks and few percentage points away from the record highs set just before Labour Day weekend.

Wall Streeters seem to be thoroughly sold on the "soft landing" theory — that the Federal Reserve could slow the economy enough to restrain inflation without inflicting much economic pain.

Should things not work out that way, the reasoning goes, traders could well be in for a rapid reappraisal of the prices stocks ought to command.

In theory at least, stocks shouldn't be vulnerable to many surprises of that kind. The collective vision of investors is supposed to be so sharp that it can detect future fluctuations in the economy earlier than almost any other forecasting system.

But that isn't always the case, contends A.C. Moore, research director at Argus Research Corp. in New York.

"Stock prices many times have gone right up into the teeth of recessions," he says. Argus this past week advised investors to reduce their exposure to stocks, in large measure because of "a high prospect of a recession coming up," in Moore's words.

Others who agree with him cite the very sluggish growth of the nation's money supply over the past couple of years as a forewarning of trouble.

At the close on Friday the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials stood at 2,681.61, up 1.33 points from the week before.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index rose 1.14 to 192.72; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market gained 0.50 to 468.07, and the American Stock Exchange market value index was up 1.74 at 381.38.

Washington, Sept. 23, (AP): The World Bank announced progress yesterday in two days of negotiations to replenish a pool of interest-free credit available to the world's poorest countries.

Ernest Stern, the bank's senior vice-president for finance, expressed hope of a final agreement among the 34 donor nations at their next round Nov 2-3 in Kyoto, Japan.

"I hope (it) will be the final round of negotiations," he said.

The International Development Association, a World Bank affiliate, makes 35- to 40-year interest-free loans to governments of poor nations.

More than 90 per cent of IDA borrowers are

countries with average incomes under \$400 a year. India is the largest single recipient of IDA credit.

The IDA said it lent \$4.9 billion to 42 governments the past year. But the lending fell short of a \$5.5-billion target, in part because several planned loans to China were held up after unrest there last June.

Stern said it was important to reach agreement on the three-year replenishment, in time for national legislatures to approve the contributions before the current funding cycle concludes next year.

The United States has been the largest contributor.

World Bank to replenish funds

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There is some concern that the Japanese commercial banks (the main Japanese commercial banks).

As for Germany, the economy is booming, figures for the first half of this year show real GNP up more than 4 per cent (about 4.5 per cent) over the like 1988 period. There was a slight slowdown in the second quarter — the annual rate of advance was 4.2 per cent in the first three months. Unemployment, meanwhile, dropped to 7.5 per cent in August from 7.7 per cent in July.

The expansion continues to be strongly supported by exports. Domestic orders rose 8 per cent, while those coming in from abroad were up 10.2 per cent. Unemployment rose in July, but only for seasonal reasons, year-on-year it was down. German foreign trade surplus increased by 18.8 per cent year-on-year, to a record DM70.3 billion in January-June.

The result for the third quarter will not be nearly as positive, to be sure. German tourists are expected this year to spend over DM4

Electric cars to limit damage

Ecologically advantageous

BRUGES, Belgium, Sept. 23, (Reuters). Forget the throb of engines and the roar of exhausts — in the 21st century the streets of Europe could hum with the sound of electric motors.

That is the vision shared by a growing number of Europeans who see in the battery-powered car a remedy to the damage done by exhaust fumes to cities and forests alike.

For these enthusiasts the ecological advantages of electric vehicles are beginning to outweigh such practical shortcomings as low range and high cost.

"We aim to introduce several million electric-driven cars by the end of this century," European Economic Community Transport Commissioner Karel van Miert told Reuters at a seminar of electric transport experts in Bruges, western Belgium.

"We want to encourage cities which are doing experiments with these cars. I believe in these experiments and that's why we want to support them," Van Miert said.

The seminar brought together more than 100 representatives from towns in France, Belgium, Britain, Italy and West Germany where experimental electric fleets are already in use.

While they shared their experiences, a convoy of battery-powered buses, vans, cars and mopeds wound its way through the cobbled streets and 13th-century squares of Bruges for 12 hours.

"I think the vehicles of the future will all be driven by electric motors. Their great advantage is they are pollution-free," said Gaston Maggetto, professor of electrical engineering at the Flemish Free University in Brussels.

For 10 years Maggetto has run a system of electric hire cars from the university campus. Students and academic staff pay 6.5 Belgian francs a kilometre (about 25 cents a mile) to drive the three- and five-person cars around the

city. "The people using the system have reacted very positively to it despite its limitations," he said.

Maggetto himself is a convert to battery power. "I crashed my own car two years ago, so I decided to stick to electric cars for a year. Driving electric was no problem for me."

Clean, quiet and capable of speeds up to 50 mph (80 kph), electric vehicles are also reliable and economical.

"They are much cheaper to run than conventional cars," said David Porter of Britain's Central Electricity Generating Board.

"The cost of fuel is very much lower because electricity is cheaper than petrol. And people generally want to recharge them at night when there is plenty of spare generating capacity."

Low maintenance is another plus point for electric cars. "An internal combustion engine has about 100 moving parts, an electric motor has only one," Porter said.

So why are electric cars still absent from European roads?

"The potential for electric vehicles is limited at the moment by their range, which is typically only 40 miles (65 km). After that they must be recharged for eight hours," Porter said.

"They also cost between twice and three times as much to build as thermal cars," he said. "Of course if you made lots of them they would be a lot cheaper."

But Maggetto and Porter both said the initial investment required would make government help essential.

"You can get round the cost problem in several ways. You can inject large amount of cash, you can give tax incentives or you can legislate," Porter said.

"There must be political action because the pollution-free aspect of the electric car is an advantage to the whole community, not to the individual," Maggetto said.

The baby who came from nowhere

Joshua was hiding in the womb waiting to be born

LITTLE Joshua Mears is a living miracle. He is the baby who came from nowhere.

Joshua, now six-months-old, was born while his mother was still heartbroken after having a miscarriage. The twin had lain undetected inside her, even surviving an operation to scrape her womb.

Mother Julie, aged 28, was flying home from a holiday in Barbados just three weeks after the miscarriage when she was suddenly "taken ill". When she landed in England, Julie was rushed to hospital, where doctors were amazed when a scan revealed that she was still pregnant.

Seven months later Joshua — his name means Saved by God — was born. Julie's little miracle was happy and bursting with health.

Dark-haired Julie, who has two other sons, Russell, aged five, and two-year-old Dominic, told me: "I'm incredibly lucky that he survived the operation. It's a miracle that he wasn't born deformed or with brain damage. I still worry that something might happen to him."

When doctors at Wythenshaw Hospital in Manchester told Julie, a nurse, that she as pregnant, she didn't believe them at first until she had another scan.

Julie, of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, said: "I was stunned that such an extraordinary thing should happen and delighted that I was going to have another child."

"My husband Tony and I agreed that I wouldn't have any more children after the miscarriage — and here I was pregnant again."

Weighting a bouncing 8lb. 10oz., Joshua was born at the George Elliot Hospital, Nuneaton, where Julie works. The consultant gynaecologist, who performed the D and C (a womb scrape), could not believe his eyes when he saw Joshua.

"I was just glad that my son was safe and with me. After I had him, and Tony had gone home, I held Joshua in my arms and cried and cried and cried."

"This student nurse heard me and came over to my bed. He said everything will be all right



Joshua poses for the camera

and held my hand. It was a lovely thing to do."

Julie admitted that after Joshua was born she was paranoid about his health. "I wouldn't let him out of my sight," she said. "I thought 'I've lost one, I don't want to lose another, especially someone as special as Joshua.'"

"I wouldn't let anyone look after him for the first few months, not even my mother. When she eventually came round to baby-sit I was worried that if Joshua stopped breathing, she wouldn't know how to revive him."

"Understandably, my mother was cross with me. She said I was never like this with the other two boys and to stop being so silly. I'm much better now but I'm still tempted to wrap Joshua up in cotton wool."

Julie was left heartbroken when she suffered a miscarriage in July last year. Her doctor, at the George Elliot Hospital, consultant gynaecologist Mr Christopher Hutchins, gave her a dilatation and curettage (D and C) which removes any remaining material after a miscarriage. Mr Hutchins told Julie to have

plenty of rest. A week later the Mears family were in Barbados for two weeks. She recalled: "I'm a nurse and I've comforted hundreds of patients who have had miscarriages. But no amount of professional experience prepares you for the real thing."

"It leaves you with a horrible, empty feeling. Even now I wonder whether it would have been a boy or girl, and what it would look like?"

"I was so depressed, but Tony was very supportive and caring. We decided that I shouldn't have any more children as I couldn't

cope with another miscarriage." During the holiday Julie kept losing blood. She thought it was due to the D and C and made a mental note of seeing Mr Hutchins when she returned to Nuneaton — but she saw him sooner than she imagined.

Julie recalled: "On the flight home I haemorrhaged. My husband was absolutely terrified and so was I. I remember Russell saying 'Is Mummy going to die?' Over and over again. It was awful."

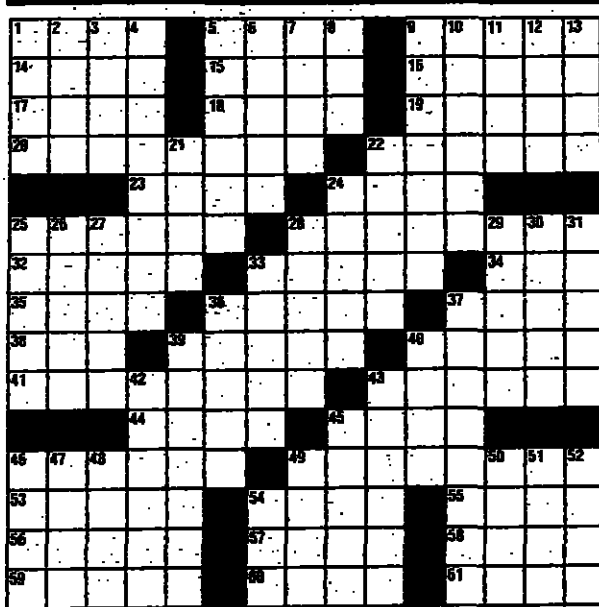
"But the air staff were fantastic. They coped marvellously." On arrival at Manchester Air-

port, Julie was taken to Wythenshaw Hospital. Doctors told her that she had probably suffered some after-effects from the miscarriage. But a scan revealed that, incredibly, she was carrying a baby.

Julie told me: "The doctors were astounded that a baby had survived a D and C. They said that they had never heard of it happening before."

Mr Hutchins was equally surprised. He told me: "What happened to Julie is quite extraordinary. But obviously Joshua's egg survived which is astonishing."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | |
| 1 — Ranger | 1 Baker's unit | 28 Jose Luis or |
| 5 "Elephant Boy" actor | 2 Shield border | 29 Mete out |
| 9 — Without a Cause | 3 Close | 30 Semblance |
| 14 Oka River city | 4 Weatherman's concern | 31 Moslem ruler |
| 15 Wading bird | 5 Gentleman of Verona | 33 Weak |
| 16 Muse of poetry | 6 Encourages | 36 Earn |
| 17 Wings | 7 Containers | 37 Easily carried |
| 18 Actor Hackman | 8 Utilize | 39 Suffragette |
| 19 Shows of bad temper | 9 Excites again | Elizabeth |
| 20 Seethes | 10 Verdi opera | Cady — |
| 22 Part of USA | 11 Cruel contents | 40 "The best — schemes of..." |
| 23 Heroic poetry | 12 Major follower | Burns |
| 24 Chow — | 13 At a — | 42 Dear, in Paris |
| 25 Olympian | 21 Fencer's weapon | 43 Sets of beliefs |
| — Bruce — | 22 Works by a Spanish muralist | 45 "It up" |
| 28 Horse-drawn vehicle | 24 "Downstairs" personages | 46 Freshwater fish |
| 32 Related on the mother's side | 25 — Kirkpatrick | 47 Musical work |
| 33 Flies like a butterfly | 26 Sign up | 48 Train |
| 34 — and Abner | 27 Mother-of-pearl | components |
| 35 Curves | | 49 Part of TAE |
| 36 Belonging to "that talking horse" | | 50 1776 or 1812 |
| 37 Ballet bend | | 51 Wave, in Venice |
| 38 Negative connective | | 52 Sense |
| 39 Scorches | | 54 Madrid Mrs. |
| 40 — cannon | | |
| 41 Kind of eye or ear | | |
| 43 Ford follower | | |
| 44 Greet | | |
| 45 Legal document | | |
| 46 Museum guide | | |
| 49 "The Jackal" | | |
| 53 Separate | | |
| 54 Oxford, for one | | |
| 55 Nota — | | |
| 56 — cabinet | | |
| 57 Crucifix | | |
| 58 Take on cargo | | |
| 59 Ruhr Valley city | | |
| 60 Snake's | | |
| 61 Of time | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

GIMP BASRA CHAP
IGOR ARTEL HOWE
GOVERNMENT OVAL
ITEMIZE TRISECT
IFA USERS
CONSTITUTION
OTOLS ORIS APA
RTAS OPART AMEN
ASH ROWE APART
PHILADELPHIA
AERIE NAE
ARIADNE ASININE
MIDI TWOHUNDRED
OSES EERIE EASE
SERIE BRATS DEITS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
BLACK DAY FOR CARELESS PLAY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 8 4
♥ J 7
♦ 10 9 6 5 3
♣ A 10

EAST
♠ 10 7 6 5 2
♥ 5 3 2
♦ 4
♣ J 9 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A J
♥ A K Q
♦ A Q 8
♣ K Q 7 3 2

The bidding:
South West North East
3 NT Pass 5 NT Pass
6 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ten of ♣

Don't let a simple contract trip you up just because it looks as if it's unbeatable. One little quirk of distribution could jeopardize the result unless you take adequate precautions.

There are still many who are comfortable with an opening bid of three no trump to show a balanced hand of 25-27 points. With 10 points and a five-card suit, North invited a grand slam with his jump to five no trump. However, South

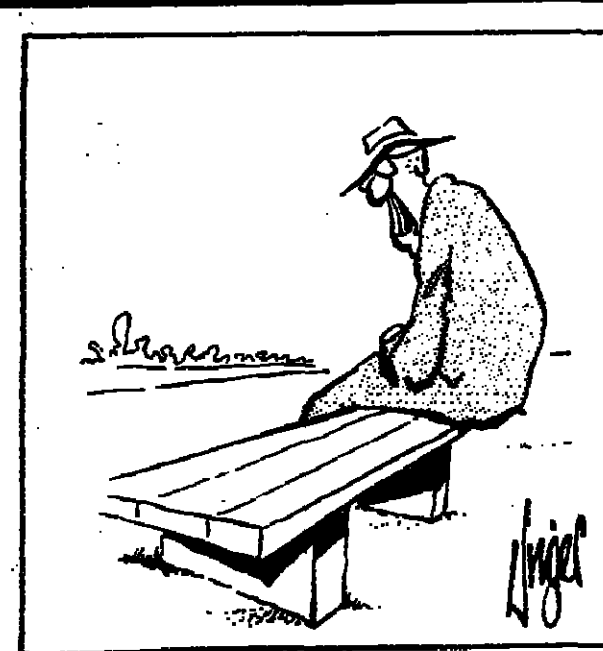
settled for a small slam since he held the minimum of 25.

Declarer won the opening heart lead and counted 11 fast tricks — four spades, three hearts, one diamond and three clubs. Since the club suit rated to produce one or two extra tricks, depending on the break, declarer wasted no time.

After clearing the ace and jack of spades from hand, declarer crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs to cash two more spades, on which he discarded diamonds. But when he tried to run clubs, he found he had to surrender a trick to East. That worthy also held a long spade, which was duly cashed for down one.

While declarer was unlucky to find both a 5-2 spade break and the defender with the established spade also holding the long clubs, his main problem was that he tried to run before he was ready to walk. Consider the difference if, after clearing the two high spades from hand, declarer were to lead a club to the ten.

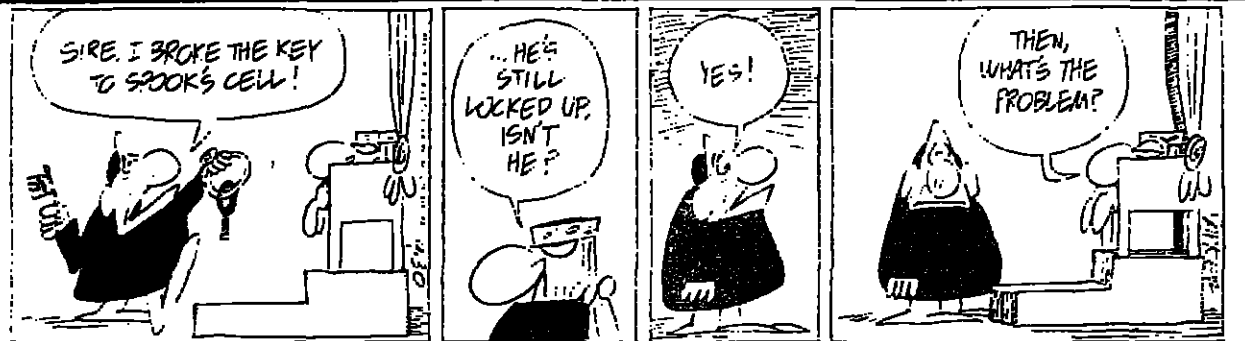
East would win, but she could not harm declarer. South would win any return, cross to the ace of clubs, discard two diamonds on the high spades, and return to hand with a red winner to cash out his clubs and land his small slam.



"Will you please mind your own business and sit somewhere else? I've had a very rough day."

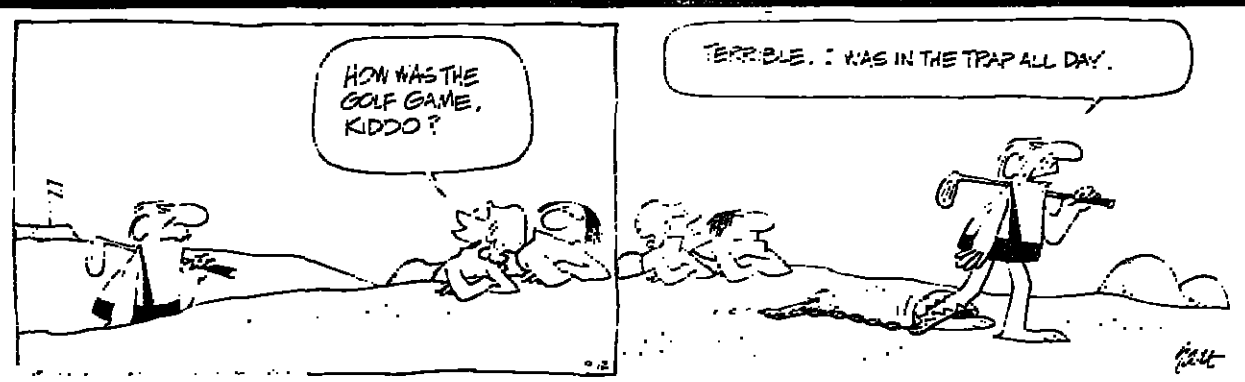
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</p> <p>You will be able to do something that is dear to you. However you must not forget what has to be done. Listen closely to what others have to say. Stick to the limits of propriety. Be moderate.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>You will be able to deal with a rather serious obstacle. You must make sure you do not get into a muddle. Keep your wits just a little more about you. Be less snobbish.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>You should not be shy of standing up for your rights. You should discuss rather than argue and should be prepared to concede a point or two. You will have a good idea but the time is not ripe for it. Be magnanimous.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>You would be wrong to jump to conclusions or act on the spur of the moment. You should take just a little better care of your health. Take exercise but not the point where it exhausts you. Be confident.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>Make sure you get enough rest but do not just let the time away. Take better care of your health without becoming too concerned about it. Show just a little more goodwill towards others. Be sensible.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)</p> <p>You should try to take your mind off work for the day. You will feel more at ease than you have done of late. Do not become involved in a quarrel between friends of yours. Be loyal.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>Not everything will go exactly the way you would like it to but quite a lot will. You have cause to be a little more optimistic but do not go overboard. A lot depends on you. Be tactful.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>You will have something to be satisfied about and you should not ask for too much. Do not live quite so much in the past and take more care about the future. It will be easier for you to relax. Be patient.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>You will be able to do something that will make your partner happy. You have no time to waste but you should not try to be in too much of a hurry or else you will go wrong. Take care you do not eat more than is good for you. Be selective.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)</p> <p>You should take it a little more easy but that does not mean doing nothing whatever. Do have a little more faith in yourself. You will be able to learn the lesson of an unusual experience. Be proud of yourself.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>You should not get involved in something that does not really concern you. You will be able to take advantage of a good opportunity. Think again before you make up your mind. Be sensible.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)</p> <p>You should avoid spending recklessly and regardless of your income. You will be able to pursue a new interest, but do not abandon your other interests. Your lucky numbers are 19 and 46.</p>

SNIPPETS

Karate expert stabbed: A karate expert was stabbed to death by two men whom he tried to scare away with martial art skills, in Navotas Wednesday afternoon.

Carlos Bautista, alias Karate Kid, of Bicutan Tagig died of multiple stab wounds in the different parts of the body.

The suspects — Rodolfo Naval and a certain Bobot, fled after killing Bautista.

Police said Bautista was having a drinking session with some friends at Pepe Rivera's Compound, Merville Subdivision, Bafangay Tanza, Navotas at about 2 pm when he left the group to buy additional bottle of liquor from a nearby store.

On his way Bautista met Naval and Bobot and a heated argument followed.

Moments later, Bautista engaged them in a fight using his karate technique prompting the two men to pull out their knives.

Employee commits suicide: An employee of the Star group of publications allegedly killed himself inside their comfort room in Kalookan City.

Narciso Trinidad, 40, of 4 West 11th Ave., Grace Park died hours after he was brought to the MCU Hospital for a gunshot wound in the month. The slug exited through the top of his head.

Trinidad's wife, Aurea, 40, told Pfc. Arsenio Nacis she and her husband had been talking in their sala when he excused himself at 1:30 pm to urinate.

Aurea said when Trinidad did not come out after several minutes, she went to the comfort room and shouted at him to open the door.

A gunshot followed instead. When her son Jorge, 19, forced the door open "nakita naming nakahandusang ang asawa ko at duguan," Aurea said.

Cop pickpocketed: A suspected pickpocket-slasher mistook a police sergeant for a rich Chinese businessman, slashed the officer's pockets and got mauled by passersby.

Restituto Hernan, 25, of Dagat-Dagatan, Navotas, realised his mistake too late when his victim, Sgt. Dario Angeles, staff secretary at the office of WPD Superintendent Brig. Gen. Alfredo Lim, pulled out a gun and chased him.

Cpt. Ramon Petilla of the WPD traffic bureau and WPD Station 9 Pat. Jessie Dara also happened to be in the vicinity of Tayuman and Rizal Ave. in Sta. Cruz when Angeles was chasing Hernan.

The lawmen forgot about Hernan's two companions, identified as Boy Waway and Park Kalbo who escaped with the bracelet and watch of Angeles worth P19,000.

Bulacan death: A 74-year-old farmer was shot dead and his nephew wounded by two men, who also hurled a hand grenade at them while sleeping in Barangay Pulong-Damo, San Ildefonso, Bulacan Wednesday night.

Silvestre Victoria died instantly while his nephew identified only as Kuyong Victoria, 37, also a farmer, suffered shrapnel wounds in the right leg. He was rushed to a Bulacan hospital.

Hanged beautician murdered: Police suspect that a beautician found hanging in his parlour was murdered.

Police said Ramon Francisco, 17, of 3033 De la Cruz Subdivision, Barangay Ugong, Valenzuela had cuts in his left wrist when he was found dead in his cabinet. A nylon rope had been looped around his neck.

Neighbours of Francisco told police they last saw him alive at 10 pm Wednesday with his alleged lover, Leopoldo Zabala.

Police said Zabala will be invited today for questioning.

3 shot dead: Three persons, two of them women were found dead in two Cavite places.

Resty Reyes, 34, of Barangay Tramo, Cavite was found 5 am at the city cemetery with a gunshot wound in the head and two in the chest, reported PC Capt. Chito Dino, 215th PC commanding officer base in Brgy. Tejero, Rosario, Cavite.

The two women, were both in their early 20s were seen in Barangay Lambingan, Tanza Cavite lying beside each other.

One was wearing a red shirt and denim. The other was also clad in denim and poloshirt. They had gunshot wounds in the head and body.

Police said there was no indication that the two women were raped.

Capt. Dino said that the three were shot with cal. 9mm pistol.

24 more domestic flights: The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) ended years of monopoly of the Philippine Airlines after it gave a provisional authority to Aerolift Philippines Corp. for a combined cargo-passenger flight to 24 domestic routes.

CAB Chairman Reinierio Reyes gave provisional authority for Aerolift to operate trunkline route from Manila to Cebu, Iloilo, Zamboanga, Bacolod, Davao, Tacloban and Puerto Princesa including eight secondary routes from Manila to several keys destinations in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Aerolift-authorised rural include to Catilcan, Daet, Luban, Busuanga and Cebu jump-off flights to Camiguin, Siquijor, Hilongos, Bislig and Ormoc.

Shot by own gun: One of two policemen was hit by a bullet of his own while trying to arrest a drunken Canadian who went wild at a Pasay City police sub-station after a taxi driver complained about the foreigner's failure to pay his fare.

Rushed to the Manila Sanitarium Hospital with a gunshot wound in the right knee was pat. Faustino Erlano.

Police said that the taxi driver who was not identified brought Jaime Leighton, 44, temporarily residing at No. 3-U Luna St. Corner Buendia Ave., to the Pasay police substation 1 on Libertad St.

In the station, police said Leighton shouted at the five policemen inside. P. Rodolfo Rosales pacified Leighton but he was kicked in the groin causing him to fall.

Erlano and Pat. Reynaldo mendoza tried to get hold of Leighton who violently resisted arrest.

During the scuffle, Erlano's gun fell and went off.

Charges of direct assault, resisting arrest and oral defamation were filed by police against Leighton.

Golden owner to be summoned: A Manila councilor will summon the owner and operator of Golden Taxi for using the service road of the South Superhighway near San Andres Bukid as garage following the strike of the company's drivers and employees.

Some 100 taxi cabs occupying the space have obstructed the flow of traffic in the area, said fifth district councilor Rufino Bunsuy.

Bunsuy said he will also summon the owner of the Sunday Machine Shop on the road for illegally dumping used oil on the street.

Drivers and employees of the taxi company have been barricading for a month now.

Farmer killed over land dispute: A cavite barangay chairman killed a farmer over a land dispute Tuesday afternoon in General Trias, Cavite.

Lamberto Carampot, 43, chairman of Barangay Camachile in Gen. Trias, killed Bienvenido Loyola, 46, with ArmaLite bullets.

Police led by Capt. Armando Magsino found 30 ArmaLite shells at the crime scene.

Carampot fled.

Magsino said Carampot and Loyola argued at 5:30 pm at Barangay Camachile over a piece of land.

Magsino then ran to his house, which was only meters away and returned with an ArmaLite.

Witnesses told police Carampot continued to shoot Loyola even though the victim was not moving any more.

Two poisoned: Legazpi City: An American and his Filipina wife died of pesticide poisoning Saturday in Tiwi, Albay.

Police said it was a suicide.

A belated police report reaching Camp Bagong Ibalon of the Constabulary Regional Command here identified the couple as Ernest and Helen Whitman.

The report said the victims were found dying in their Barangay Mayzonong, Tiwi house last Saturday by a certain Alderico Nunez who rushed them to the Central Medical Clinic in the same town.

The Whitmans were declared dead on arrival at the clinic, the police said.

Factory burnt: A six-hour fire razed an animal feeds factory in Malabon.

Destroyed was Royal Feeds on Tondo St., Barangay Maysilo.

Arson investigators said the fire, which started at about 2 am destroyed approximately P3 million worth of properties. The cause is not yet known. No casualties were reported.

High Court denies FM bid to return

They remain a serious threat to the nation's peace

THE Supreme Court denied the petition of former President Marcos and his family to allow them to return to the country because they remain a serious threat to national security, stability and progress.

In a 30-page resolution written by Associate Justice Irene Cortez, the high tribunal voted 8 to 7 to uphold President Aquino's decision to bar the Marcoses from returning.

Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan cast the deciding vote and issued a separate concurring opinion.

Seven justices dissented, including Justice Florentino P. Feliciano, who was on leave. Except for Justice Abdulwahid Bidin, the justices who voted to allow the Marcoses to return each issued a strongly worded dissenting opinion.

Through counsel Juan T. David, the Marcoses, who fled the country at the height of a civilian-backed military

revolt in February 1986, asked the tribunal to order the government to issue them travel papers to allow them to return to the country to defend themselves in the ill-gotten wealth charges against them.

They said the Constitution provides them the right to travel and stay in the Philippines.

In the decision, the tribunal said the 1987 Constitution declares that "the prime duty of the government is to serve and protect the people" and that "the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy."

The tribunal said that there exists a factual basis for the President to conclude that the Marcoses still pose a serious threat to the national stability.

"The documented history of the

efforts of the Marcoses and their followers to destabilise the country... bolsters the conclusion that the return of the Marcoses at this time would only exacerbate the intensity of the violence directed against the state and instigate more chaos," the tribunal said.

"The court cannot close its eyes to present realities and pretend that the country is not besieged from within by a well-organised communist insurgency, a separatist movement in Mindanao, rightist conspiracies to grab power, urban terrorism, the murder with impunity of military men, police officials, to mention only a few," the tribunal said.

Thus, the tribunal said, "it cannot be said that (the President) has acted or acts arbitrarily or that she has gravely abused his discretion in deciding to bar the Marcoses return."

"As divergent and discordant forces, the enemies of the state may be con-

tained," the tribunal said.

Aside from Fernan, those who voted to bar Marcos, return were Justices Andres Narvasa, Emilio Gancayco, Carolina Aquino, Ammerina Melencio-Herrera, Florence Regalado, and Leo Medialdea.

Aside from Bidin, those who dissented were Justices Hugo Gutierrez, Edgardo Paras, Abraham Sarmiento, Isagani Cruz and Teodoro Padilla.

The dissenters said the Marcoses remain Filipino citizens and as such must be accorded their constitutional rights to come home. They also said that government prosecutors who opposed the Marcoses' return failed to produce "hard evidence" to deny them their right.

In his dissenting opinion, Gutierrez said he was disturbed by the majority ruling declaring that the Marcoses case should not be a precedent for all would-be exiled rulers who may wish to return to the country.

"With all due respect for the majority of the court, I believe that the issue before us is one of rights, not of power," Gutierrez said. "Mr. Marcos is innocent and would not live if separated from the machines which have taken the functions of his kidneys and other organs. To treat him at this point as one with full paucity of power against whom the forces of government should be marshalled is totally unrealistic. The government has the power to arrest and punish him. But does it have the power to deny him his right to come home and die among familiar surroundings?"

"We are interpreting the Constitution for only one person and constituting him into a class by himself. The Constitution is a law for all classes of men at all times. To have a person as one class by himself smacks of unequal protection of the laws," Gutierrez added.

Mitra to stay as party head

Asked to reconsider his position to resign

MAJORITY of the members of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) will ask Speaker Ramon Mitra to reconsider his position to resign as president of the party, Sen. Heherson Alvarez said.

Alvarez said there was a consensus among LDP leaders in the provinces to keep Mitra as head of the party until an active executive vice-president is elected to take over Mitra's post.

"There are so many grave problems, particularly on the bases. And the speaker should concentrate on this," Alvarez said. He, however, endorsed Sen. Neptali Gonzales to replace Mitra if he resigns.

On Mitra's proposal to invite Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Agrarian Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor-Santiago and basketball player Robert Jaworski to the party, Alvarez said this should be first reviewed by members.

"Hindi basta tanggap ng tanggap, maski pa sampu ang stars ng general eh. Hindi basta mawelcome yan. This is a party with an ideology which they will have to embrace," Alvarez said.

Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile, on the other hand, said the entry of basketball superstars and movie stars result to "a battle of dramatic personae." He said, "We should be more responsible and while we can heed each other's jokes, the life of the nation is not a joking matter."

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said LDP's proposal to invite Jaworski is a clear indication that the party is crumbling. "Nais kong imungkahi kay Speaker Mitra na gawin nilang susunod na pangulo ng LDP si (Congresswoman Nicanor) De Guzman. Mas Mapagutuuman ng pansin ni De Guzman ang LDP dahilang nakabakasyon siya," he said.

Sen. Orlando Mercado said the invitation to Jaworski may be another propaganda to enable people to bring back their support to the party.

"Marami ang tagahanga ni Jaworski, baka makatulong ito sa kamila," he said.



Mitra

DECS orders probe

THE Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) started investigation reports of graft and corruption in the agency after finding proof of questionable purchase of books in at least two of four public schools it inspected in Metro Manila yesterday.

DECS officials led by Secretary Lourdes Quisumbing, who joined a congressional committee's inspection of four schools in Manila and Quezon City, also noted there is an immediate need to refurbish school buildings and upgrade facilities.

Rep. Carlos Padilla, chairman of the House committee on education and culture, said his committee and the DECS have found evidence confirming reports there is corruption in the DECS.

Padilla said there were, for instance, questionable purchases of encyclopaedia, textbooks and other materials at the Teodoro Alonzo High School in Binondo and Bonifacio Elementary School in Pasay.

"There is clearly a waste of money. How can DECS justify the P150 million budget it is asking for the purchase of textbooks?" he asked.

Padilla said he invited Quisumbing and the DECS officials to join the inspection his committee initiated so "they can see for themselves" that his earlier statement denouncing corruption in the agency was not baseless.

Padilla told a forum last week there is a need for an ombudsman at the education department to check graft and corruption in the agency.

Ban on foreign names sought

Do not reflect Filipino values

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan: A provincial board member of Pangasinan is urging Congress to pass a law which would strip almost every Filipino of his name, including the prominent himself.

Roberto N. Ferrer has introduced a resolution in the Sangguniang Panlalawigan asking Congress to pass a law prohibiting the use of American or other foreign-sounding names.

He said such names do not reflect indigenous Filipino values or contribute to national identity and unity.

"During baptismal ceremonies, names being used now by parents for their children are a sad mixture of foreign, multi-syllabic, tongue-twisting, anachronistic and unnationalistic names," Ferrer said.

He said teachers, employers, office managers and many others have been complaining that names of people are becoming more difficult to spell.

Such foreign-sounding names have often caused confusion and suspicion, especially when such persons try to get clearances and documents from the National Bureau of Investigation, the military, courts, colleges, embassies, and banks, he added.

Ferrer said Congress should enact a law regulating the use of names in order to "safeguard national interests, promote national identity and enhance deep-rooted Filipino values."



13 Davao CPP leaders fall

SOLDIERS captured 13 regional communist leaders in Mindanao in four separate raids in Davao City since Sept. 7, the military said.

Maj. Gen. Ramon E. Montano, Constabulary chief, described the capture as a "breakthrough" in the government's intensified counterinsurgency drive nationwide.

The military said the first to be arrested was William Duran, a regional party official. Duran reportedly led soldiers to the other regional leaders of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines.

Duran, alternate member of the regional party committee, was arrested near Lanang, Davao City on Sept 7 at 10:30 am

together with his wife Maria and Ernesto Pagdila.

The following day, Alexander Pagdila was surprised by PC operatives near the Davao Pool-side Restaurant.

Others who were captured were Joaquin Timogtimog, alias Pancho, SMRC finance committee member; Rebecca Timogtimog, alias Rose, in-charge of legal programmes of the finance committee; Joselito Libres, alias Amado, member of the executive committee and secretary of regionwide area committee; Dominador Calimbo, alias Caen, member of the special white area territory; Jolly Pagdila, alias Arnes, first deputy secretary; Kidlat, Davao Oriental Party committee; Danny Pag-

dila, alias Allan, second deputy-secretary; Front 18, Davao Oriental Party committee; and Eugenio Canano, member, "Sandatahang Unit Propaganda Front 18; Jocelyn Maglana, alias May, member, middle force committee of the special white area territory.

Brig. Gen. Gerardo Flores, Constabulary intelligence chief, said Duran could be used as a reliable source of information that may result in the capture of other "wanted" CCP leaders in southern Mindanao.

Flores also said that most of the captured rebels co-operated with the military in providing vital informations on the whereabouts of CPP leaders in Davao City.

LDP woos Santiago, Ramos and Jaworski

By Roy de Guzman

DEFENCE Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, Agrarian Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor-Santiago and basketball star Robert Jaworski have all been invited to join the pro-administration Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) party.

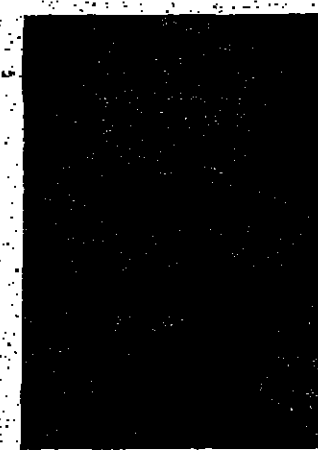
This developed as Speaker Ramon V. Mitra told reporters that he expects the party's national executive committee to pick Sen. Neptali Gonzales as LDP president after he formally announces today his resignation as party head.

The party will be holding a two-day national assembly starting today at the Philippine International Convention Centre, a year after it was founded.

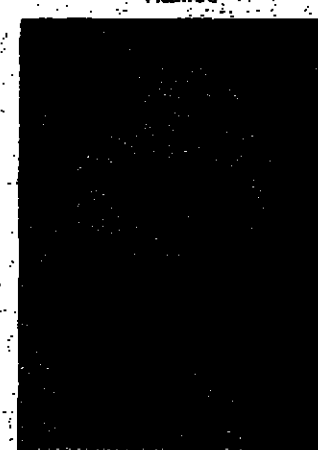
"I am very comfortable with Eddie (Ramos)," said Mitra. However, Ramos and Defensor — both recognised presidential timbers — have yet to give a reply to his offer, the speaker said.

A Mitra follower said Mitra wants to concentrate on just being speaker of the House of Representatives, hence his decision to quit. According to sources, rep. Oscar Orbes (LDP, Pangasinan), deputy secretary-general and spokesman of the party, will also follow suit.

When asked to verify the report, Orbes said he was really planning to concentrate on legislative work "but I would follow whatever decision is taken by the party's new leaders. The post was merely offered to me and they can take it away anytime," Orbes said.



Ramos



Jaworski

Mitra said it was Rep. Freddie Webb (LDP, Parañaque) who had invited Jaworski said he will join only after the present PBA conference," said Mitra.

"The LDP really intends to enlist national achievers and we hope that those we invited could

join the party before 1992," said Mitra.

"An LDP observer noted that Mitra really intends to eliminate all possible opponents for the presidency before 1992. With Ramos and Defensor joining as members, they could run only as vice-president under Mitra, said the LDP man.

The same source also noted that Mitra intends to keep his hold on the party by ensuring the top LDP post will not go to a presidential relative.

Two relatives of President Aquino — House majority floor leader Francisco Sumpunlong and Rep. Emigdio Tanjuatco (LDP, Rizal) — are said to be keenly eyeing Mitra's post. However, the two legislators are not due to arrive before Sept 19, and by that time, the LDP conference and new elections will be over.

Mitra admitted that Gonzales is not keen on being LDP president. "But Tali (Gonzales) is a good soldier and I expect him to accept (the post)," said Mitra.

At present, 70 per cent of the governors and congressmen are with LDP, and only the Senate — where only six of the 23 senators come from the party — is controlled by the Liberal Party headed by Senate President Jovito Salonga.

Almost all of the more than 1,500 mayors in the country have also switched parties and joined the LDP.

"Compared to us, other parties look like neighbourhood associations," he said.

Schedule of fees

FOR the information of the public, following is the new schedule of fees for the following services:

For passport services:

	Fee/KD
Issuance of new passport (32 pages) (64 pages)	19.500
Issuance of new passport due to loss	22.750
Extension of validity of passport	29.250
Amendment	8.125
	6.500

For visa services:

Crew list visa (for 40 crew members or less)	19.500
Tourist visa	4.875
Visa for restricted aliens	9.750
Student visa	32.500

For legal services:

Certification/Acknowledgement/Authentication	6.500
Certification of driver's licence	3.250
Sealing of casket (for dead)	16.250
Solemnization of marriage	16.250
Verification fees (of labour documents)	3.250

Miscellaneous fees:

Registration of Filipino national at embassy	1.625
Telex fee (one-way)	4.250
(two-way)	8.500

Postage fee (mailing charges)

for passports only 1.625

Sale of Crew List Visa form (per page) 0.975

Note:

1. For passport applicants: Before any passport services are extended, the embassy will require the following:

a. Copy of income tax paid for the last two (2) years and/or
b. payment of KD3,250 per year as penalty for late filing for exempted late filers or
Payment of KD3,250 plus the regular tax due plus surcharge and interest thereto as penalty for non-exempted late filers.

2. For visa applicants: Visas are issued only upon compliance of prescribed requirements, aside from payment of above fees.

3. For authentication: Only documents originating in the Philippines and properly authenticated in the Philippines will be authenticated by the embassy.

If you have any queries you wish the embassy to reply to and have them printed in this newspaper, please address them to the Philippine embassy, P.O. Box 26288 Safat 13123 Kuwait, attn. Embassy Corner, Arab Times.

Handwritten text in a box at the top center of the page.

'Being' and Michael de Mesa

LAST Sunday on Lovingly Yours, Helen's anniversary presentation, Kuh Ledesma essayed her first acting job since her acting job since her stiff and tentative screen debut opposite Christopher de Leon some years back. The good news is that Kuh, the actress, has learned how to relax and even enjoy herself.

Less heartening is the fact that the teleplay was so light and stretched-out that Kuh didn't have much of a chance to show real depth as a performer. Well, maybe next time.

Michael de Mesa and Kuh played bosom buddies in the episode. He was a ballet dancer and she was an architect who didn't like dancing, but they got along famously just the same. Kuh's friend (Ivy Violan) was in love with Michael but he didn't reciprocate her feelings, so Ivy spread the word that Michael was gay.

Kuh was having her share of problems with her demanding boyfriend (Marco Sison) who wanted her to rearrange her activities to suit his preferences. Marco resented Michael and Kuh's closeness, and his objections eventually led to the break-up of their romance.

Later, Kuh and Michael discovered that they were falling in love. They tried to avoid confronting this new development, but things finally came to a head and the best friends ended up as lovers.

The material was too spare for the full-blown treatment it was given, but the script was occasionally humorous and touching. Mario O'Hara's perceptive direction was

one of the production's strongest suits and helped the singers-turned-actors, Kuh, Marco and Ivy through some dodgy spots. Marco's role required him to do little other than act testy, which he did well enough, but no full characterization was forthcoming. Ivy's performance was strained and self-conscious in some scenes, but more acting stunts should smoothen out those rough edges.

Kuh and Michael did exceptionally well in the brief scene during which they first sensed that their relationship was changing. The delicate scene was effective, up until Michael's line about their feeling uneasy because "malisya" had entered the picture. "Malisya" is hardly the word for new sensations of romantic love, so the line grated and marred an otherwise moving scene.

After a while, the script betrayed another weakness: its series of tampan scenes eventually had an awkward effect because Kuh and Michael were too mature to be acting in so flighty a fashion.

Three films for Bembo

Michael dominated the episode with his natural and intelligent characterization. He looked out-of-sorts only in the arty restaurant scenes in which he was made to "conduct" as a violinist serenaded Kuh. Otherwise, Michael's understanding of his character was consistently on-target. Kuh tried to act in a natural fashion; Michael was. Somebody give him his own TV drama show, quick.



De Mesa. His characterization in 'Lovingly Yours, Helen' episode was natural and intelligent.

Bembo Roco's return to acting in films by way of the Viva movie, Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita, has revived producers' interest in him.

All of a sudden, he has two other films by way of the Viva movie, Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita, has revived producers' interest in him.

coming up, one in which he's directed again by Lino Brocka, and a Bong Revilla starrer.

There was a time when Bembo gave up acting in favour of a lucrative construction business, but it looks like movie people have finally wised up to his worth as an actor, so he's back at what he loves doing — crafting extraordinary, vital characters who make romantic leads look blands in comparison.

Bimbo and Pam

Bimbo Cerrudo and Pam Gamboa sang to full house of fans in their Two Match show at the Music Museum two Thursdays ago (a repeat is set for Sept. 21). The two young talents served notice that, with more polish and experience, they could really make their mark in showbiz.

Bimbo came off best of all, with his combination of a fine singing voice, good looks and warm, earnest projection.

Pam is a gifted singer, musical mimic and all-round musician, but she needs to work on warmth and openness in her relationship to her audience.

For his part, Bimbo should pay more attention to his show clothes, some of which make him look dumpy.

Pam's suite of musical impersonations was too long. She would do better by retaining only the most effective bits (as per audience reaction).

The two stars' spicks could also stand major re-thinking, to tone down the cuteness and the many references to young singers, realizing their dreams, singing the songs that they really love, etc. etc.

La Salle takes on Ateneo anew

THE UAAP basketball tournament returns to the Araneta Coliseum as a crippled La Salle battles to preserve its unblemished record in a much-awaited rematch with arch rival Ateneo.

Archers coach Derrick Pumaren left for the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) championships in Beijing last Tuesday with La Salle mainstays Jun Limpot and Johnedel Cardel. The three will miss the Archers' game against the Eagles.

In the first round, Limpot and Cardel sat out only a game due to their participation in the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur. Their absence nearly spoiled La Salle's perfect slate as the Archers were blanked the last three minutes but managed to eke out a 91-89 decision over Adamson University. La Salle, however, may not be as lucky.

At present time, it was not certain whether Ateneo will play crack point guard Igo Reyes. Actually, Reyes was on the Philippine squad that took second place at the Sea Games. But since coming back from Kuala Lumpur, Reyes has asked the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) to take a leave from the national team to concentrate on his studies. BAP secretary-general Caloy Manzanillo threatened to suspend Reyes for opting out but fans felt the warning was uncalled for.

The BAP has no business forcing Reyes or anyone to play for the national team if he doesn't want to. It's a free country, isn't it? Obviously, Reyes finds his academic responsibility more important. And why

not? Reyes has a head on his shoulders and must think of the future. School must come ahead of basketball in the priority list. Manzanillo must be censured for issuing a warning to Reyes. Philippine sports can do without despots like Manzanillo and his superior Lito Puyat.

If Reyes skips the Beijing competitions and suits up for Ateneo, it could mean trouble for the handicapped Archers. With a full complement, La Salle was hardpressed to turn back Ateneo, 77-69, in the first round as Reyes scattered 11 points, seven in the final few minutes.

It was Reyes who buried two free throws to make it 71-68, time down to 1:50 Limpot, Cardel and Joey Santamaria then combined forces to bail La Salle out of harm's way.

Recently, La Salle raised its record to 9-0 with a 128-85 romp over the University of Santo Tomas. Teddy Monasterio erupted for 15 points and dished off six assists to spark the La Salle assault. Limpot and Cardel may miss three of the Archers' second round assignments before playing back from Beijing. In their absence, assistant coach Gabby Velasco will lean on Santamaria, Eddie Viaplana, Lincoln Lim, Monasterio, Rafael Dinglasan, Richard del Rosario and Jonas Mariano to keep La Salle competitive.

Edgar Postanes and Victor Pablo will also join the national team in Beijing, handicapping Far Eastern University in the process.



In the absence of Zandro Limpot, Richard del Rosario will get enough playing time.

Chess olympics opens

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre chalked up 19 wins against a draw and a loss in a 21-board chess simul exhibition held Sunday during the opening of the Carlsberg First Students Chess Olympics at the Affiliated Center building penthouse on Ayala Avenue, Makati.

Torre lost only to 1988 Palarong Pambansa champion Yves Raulo of Far Eastern University after committing a blunder halfway in the game and drew with Moises Sta. Ana of Philippine School of Business Administration.

The exhibition kicked off the 1989 Carlsberg Chess Olympics which drew 24 schools competing in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP), Metro Manila Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (MNUCAA-PICUAA), and Philippine Christian Inter-Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (MNUCAA-PICUAA), and Philippine Inter-Colleges Athletic Association (PICAA).

Present during the opening were Eddie Ong, Asia Brewery vice-president for marketing, Carlsberg promotion manager Mariess Salandanan and Philippine Chess Federa-

tion president Art Borjal. The organizing Philippine Chess Federation said late registration and submission of players will still be accepted until tomorrow, at 5 pm at the PCF headquarters, Room 301, Campos Rueda Bldg, Urban St, Makati. No entry fees are required.

The first round of competitions will start Saturday at 1 pm and will continue every Saturday and Sunday thereafter at the same venue.

The participating UAAP schools are Adamson University, Ateneo de Manila University, of the East, De La Salle University and FEU.

Representing the MNUCAA-PICUAA are Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Philippine Christian University, Philippine School of Business Administration, Perpetual Help College of Manila, Central Colleges of the Philippines, National College of Business and Arts, Lyceum of the Philippines, Metro Manila Colleges, Technological Institute of the Philippines, Philippine School of Aeronautics and FEATI.

Girl of the Sea Games

By Lito Cinco

WITH a measly 29 gold medal harvest in the recently-concluded South East Asian Games at Kuala Lumpur, our participation there was considered a debacle. If not a national disaster.

Be that as it may, one cannot ignore the fact that we did have some shining moments, too, courtesy of a few athletes. One of whom was a hit even with the Malaysian sportswriters, not just for being a triple gold medalist and a Sea Games record-setter at that, but also for her winning ways off the pool, particularly her good looks.

She is none other than pretty Akiko Thomson, 14, who ruled the 100m backstroke (her favourite event), the 100m, and 50m freestyle events. Akiko set new RP records in the first two events.

"I was just going for the gold in the 100m backstroke, but my coaches told me I also had a good chance in the other events where I was entered, and I am very happy that I was able to win all three events," related Akiko, a 10th grader at Brent School, who also won a silver in the 200m backstroke, a performance that definitely eclipsed her 1987 Jakarta Sea Games output of one gold, two silvers, and one bronze.

A veteran of the 1988 Seoul Olympiad, Akiko, as early as now is setting her sights on the 1992 Olympics at Barcelona, Spain, where she hopes to be at her peak. "I will be targeting the semifinals in Barcelona," she said.

And if she does get an athletic scholarship in an American college after finishing her studies at Brent, that would definitely bolster her chances of achieving her objective in the 1992 Olympic Games.

"Eric (Buhain) got one, so I'm optimistic I would be able to get a scholarship also. I would prefer Stanford, but it's very difficult to get into that school," she added.



Akiko Thomson

Right now, she is looking forward to the Asian Age Group Swimming Championships in Sapporo, Japan, later this month. "I was told I have qualified for the team though nothing's definite as of now since I haven't talked yet with Ral Rosario (PASA president). I'd like to go there if asked," said Akiko, the youngest of two girls and one boy of American executive Marsh Thomson, presently Executive Vice-President of the local American Chamber of Commerce and Japanese Hiroko Thomson, an artist who is into painting.

Holder of dual American and Filipino citizenships, the latter through a Presidential Decree by then President Marcos in 1985, Akiko has to make a choice which citizenship to keep when she reaches the age of 21 but as of now, she has already made a decision which should warm the hearts of Filipinos.

"I'm pretty sure I will pick the Philippines. I love it here and actually, the whole family is more Asian than anything else, since we have been in this part of the world for a very long time. My parents would not pose any objection in the event I opt to choose a Filipino citizenship," said Akiko who has been in the country since she was six years old.

A first for Steve

STEVE DE LEON may not yet be a byword among the buying public, but among his colleagues in the fashion business, his name is held in high esteem.

The high level of artistry in Steve's designs, particularly in his ingenious treatment of local materials, is something that never ceases to impress even designers abroad. The standing ovation accorded his couture collection at the ASEAN fashion festival held in Singapore last year was one particular instance.

And now, Steve De Leon is all set for his first grand solo show after 20 years in the business. To be staged at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel on Nov 2, De Leon's show will project the portrait of a Filipino fashion designer as an artist. The first part, acknowledging his pride for anything Filipino, will feature contemporary wear projecting influences from the highlands down to the Muslim south.

The second part is a tribute to outstanding Filipino artists. Steve will interpret the extraordinary features of the works of Fernando Amorsolo, Botong

Francisco, Vincent Manansala, Ibarra de la Rosa, Anita Magasaysay-Ho and Virginia Tz-Navarro.

For the final part, De Leon turns thought-provoking as he interprets the meaning of the Lord's Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries. He calls this portion "eccelesiacal."

The part show will be produced by AC&T, a management and marketing group headed by Theodore Regino with a buying office in Canada.



De Leon

From the provinces

MANILA: Commo. Pio H. Garrido Jr., commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard, directed investigation of 68 Filipinos rescued by m/v Central Visayas from a sinking fishing boat in the Kaohsiung strait off Taiwan the other day.

The 68 are all natives of Babuyan Island.

Capt. Rodolfo J. Simon, top executive of the sea-safety division of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), said that Commo. Garrido wanted to find out why the 68 Filipinos had ventured so near to Taiwan at this stormy time of the year.

Capt. Austero Bas, commander of Coast Guard District VII comprising Northern Luzon including the Batanes, said that the babuyan islands are indeed nearer to Taiwan than to Luzon, and "natives there are so used to the vagaries of weather obtaining there that they venture out to sea anytime."

On the other hand, some Filipinos who are based in Taiwan, said that the 68 were perhaps trying to sneak into that country for the purpose of looking for job opportunities in Taiwan's industrial plants.

ERMITA: Some 400 suspected prostitutes, bar girls, and unlicensed club entertainers were rounded up by policemen during raids on 40 establishments in Ermita and Malate.

LCol Robert Barbers, acting commander of Manila police Precinct No 5, said that the raid was part of a campaign by the police against suspected illegal clubs, bars, and other nightspots.

Barbers said that the women who had no permit will be charged with prostitution. The club managers and bar owners will be included in the charges.

ZAMBOANGA: Rep. Wilfredo Caimlet of Zamboanga del Sur will deliver the keynote address at the formal launching today of the Ateneo de Zamboanga Metro Manila Alumni Association, grouping nearly 2,000 Ateneos from Zamboanga City.

The new Ateneo group is headed by builder and restaurateur Paulino Pe as president. Other officers are Monserrat Guingona David, vice-president; Ramon Bernardo, secretary; Enrique Lim, treasurer; Jose N. Nebrao, auditor; TV Journalist Edwin Fargas, press relations officer; and Santiago Mariano, counsel. Directors include Cues Doraja, Ramon Lim, Cesar Wee Sit, and Vicente Rey Suarez.

MANILA: Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre, Capital Regional Command (Capcom) chief, denied yesterday reports that the Manila policemen accused in the slay try on Dr. Nemesio Prudente, Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) president, were roaming around the Manila City Jail.

In his report to Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, PC chief, Aguirre said that Patrolmen Ricardo Ilumina, Fidel Mailig, Francisco Zarcas, and Alejandro Manubay are all in their cells.

The fifth suspect, Pat. Andres Yambot, also of the Western Police District (WPD), is detained at the PC-INP jail in Camp Crame, Quezon City, because of another criminal case lodged against him.

MANILA: There are new natural health foods in the local market which are a good nutritional supplement to maintain better health.

This was revealed yesterday by top officials of High-Desert Philippines, in partnership with Macroserge of Singapore, local distributors of Bee Polens, during a press conference.

Lily Rodulfa, president of the firm, and Lim Choon Kiat, Macroserge managing director, added that Bee-Propolis, which is internationally recognized as "nature's powerful antibiotic," have no toxic effects on users.

ANGELES CITY: Councilor Carlos Sandico III announced that mass displaying of the Philippine flag for one week of every year will become a tradition here starting in the next celebration of Philippine Independence.

In a recently passed resolution, the city council declares the week preceding June 12 of every year as Flag Week.

Sandico, who introduced the resolution, said that it was

observed in the last Independence Day celebration that there were only few flags displayed in public places. He also said that displaying of the national flag is a gesture of nationalism and patriotism.

Recalling that many years ago the flag was hoisted in many public places and even in the windows of houses on Independence Day, Sandico said this year's celebration seemed to have given the flag less importance in many parts of the country. This has shown, he said, by the few number of vehicles which displayed the flag.

He observed, however, that in this city, there were many flags displayed last June 12. This is understandable, because Angeles City was the site of the first Independence Day celebration.

LEGASPI CITY: Masbate Gov. Emilio Espinosa has dispatched a report that there was no fire last June 28 in Bitoon Beach, Mobo, Masbate.

Interviewed at his residence here, Espinosa said that there are documents showing there was a fire.

The incident resulted in the killing of an aide of former assemblyman Jolly Fernandez and serious wounding of Fernandez himself. The former assemblyman had earlier claimed that his group was ambushed.

The report stating that there was no gunbattle was attributed to Gen. Carlos Malan, inspector-general of the PC-INP.

Espinosa said that he had talked to General Malan who informed him of his (Malan's) visit for "some command inspections and to find out what happened but not to conduct an official investigation."

In another development, PC-INP Recom 5 commander Col Marino Filart, citing findings by the criminal investigation service and the Masbate Constabulary command, said there were witnesses who testified there was firing from the boat carrying Fernandez and his group.

Filart reported said that most of the witnesses, including Local Government Regional Director Jesus Inginiro, who were in Bitoon beach at the time, had stated under oath there was an exchange of fire between the Fernandez and Espinosa groups.

"What are we trying to find out is who started the firefight," Filart said.

MASINLOC, Zambales: The Department of Agriculture has recommended the temporary ban of shellfishes in this town after oyster samples from Masinloc Bay were tested positive of toxins which caused red tide.

Director Juanito Malig of Department of Agriculture in a telegram sent to the DA regional office in San Fernando, Pampanga and to Masinloc Community Development Information Officer (CDIO) Claro Leyco said the latest oyster from this town contained 357 micrograms of toxin.

Malig also advised the public to avoid eating shellfishes like *talaba*, *talaba*, *talaba* and other similar shellfishes which are dangerous at this time.

The CDIO in Masinloc immediately launched an information campaign in different barangays here and warned the public to take precautions to avoid food poisoning.

The CDIO in Candelaria and other coastal towns near Masinloc have been informed about the ban.

So far, no cases of red tide poisoning have been reported so far.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) will continue monitoring shellfishes here to give public the update for possible red tide in the province of Zambales.

Earlier, Sta. Cruz town was recommended for monitoring.

MANILA: The National Crusade for Good Government (NCGG) lauded President Aquino for her anti-graft drive at the National Housing Authority (NHA).

Retired Brig. Gen. Pedro R. Balbanero and lawyer Antonio P. Coronel, NCGG spokesmen, said this is an "encouraging new beginning at the NHA."

"This is an excellent opportunity for the President to exercise her will and comply with her obligations, and we assure her of our unstinted support and co-operation," Balbanero and Coronel said.

MANILA: Tropical depression "Daling" moved yesterday northwest toward Taiwan, but will induce monsoon rains today over southern Luzon and the Visayas and the western section of northern and central Luzon.

Metro Manila will also have rains today due to the induced southwest monsoon. Storm signal No. 1 was still hoisted over north-eastern Luzon, including Batanes, where occasional rains and gusty winds of more than 55 kilometres per hour (kph) will be experienced.

Weathermen said "Daling," the fourth weather disturbance in the country, weakened yesterday. Boy Nilo, a weather forecaster, said "Daling" was 340 kilometres east of Basco, Batanes, at 2 am today.

MANILA: The Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AFP-SLAI) has signed an agreement with Pag-IBIG and National Housing Authority (NHA) for Pag-IBIG to provide funds, while AFP-SLAI will lend the money and NHA will provide the technical expertise in building low-cost housing and livelihood projects for its military and police members.

The agreement was signed by Teodoro K. Katigbak, NHA chairman; Monico V. Jacob, then Pag-IBIG chief, now NHA general manager, and Col. Nese S. Andaya, president and general manager of AFP-SLAI. Witnesses were Col. Victor M. Punzalan, counsel of AFP-SLAI, and Amelai Zorayda C. Alonzo, deputy chief executive officer of Pag-IBIG. The AFP-SLAI has now two sources of funds for the housing loan needs of its military and police members — Pag-IBIG and the United Home Lending Programme.

MAKATI: The Second Architectural Students' Design Competition will be held today at the Architectural Centre Club in Makati.

The competition has for its theme "Panibahay '89" based on a word coined from "Panimulang Bahay" or starter's house, which features all the basics but gives provision for expansion. The design competition is a joint undertaking of the F. Jacinto Group and the United Architects of the Philippines.

MANILA: Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose U. Ong has announced the promotion of revenue district officer (RDO) Alex Collantes of the Quezon district to the Tondo-San Nicolas area, effective July 1, under Revenue Travel Assignment Order No. 39-89.

Collantes, a certified public accountant, joined the BIR in 1954 as an ordinary clerk and rose from the ranks to be appointed RDO of Lucena in 1975-79, Cavite in 1979-80, Pasay in 1980-84 and Quipao in 1984 to the present. He was ranked No. 3 among the 97 RDOs throughout the country by the accounting and statistical record of the BIR and was the only RDO who topped the 1957 examination on training services with a rating of 96.46 per cent.

QUEZON CITY: A Quezon City ordinance imposing restrictions on the sale, production, and drinking of liquor will finally be implemented in the city, Mayor Brigido Simon Jr. said yesterday.

The ordinance's implementation was deferred for several months due to the failure of the city government to formulate the guidelines.

The measure authored by Councilor Alberto Galarpe prohibits the drinking of intoxicating or alcoholic beverages in public and restricts the sale of liquor in certain hours.

Simon Jr. said he appointed three non-government men to compose the Liquor Licensing and Regulatory Board (LLRB) to implement the rules of the QC liquor ordinance.

QUEZON CITY: Maryknoll formally celebrates the change of its name to "Miriam College" today at festive ceremonies to be ushered in by an institutional mass at the college grounds in Quezon City.

A "welcome" marker will be unveiled at the entrance of the campus as well as a commemorative marker stating the "vision-mission statement" of the college. In addition, there will be an institutional exhibit on the history of Maryknoll, now Miriam College.

SPORTS

Seles stuns Sanchez, Navratilova rolls on

DALLAS, Sept. 23, (Reuters): Fifteen-year-old Monica Seles of Yugoslavia surprised second-seeded French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain 6-4, 6-2 yesterday to reach the semifinals of the Dallas Women's Tennis Tournament.

Seles said she was geared up for the match, her first ever against the Spaniard, because she had seen Sanchez Vicario beat

top-ranked Steffi Graf in the finals of the French Open.

"Always when you play top 10 players, you have to be more ready. I have never played Arantxa, but I know her game is good. I am happy to beat her," the lanky fifth seed said.

Next up for Seles will be unseeded American Anne Smith, who beat eighth

seed Rosalyn Fairbank of South Africa 7-5, 7-6 (7-5) in her quarterfinal.

Top-seeded Martina Navratilova met with more trouble than expected but continued her bid for a ninth Dallas title by beating sixth-seeded fellow American Mary Joe Fernandez 7-5, 0-6, 6-1.

Navratilova will meet third seed Manuela Maleeva in the semifinals. The Bul-

garian outlasted seventh-seeded Raffaella Reggi of Italy 6-1, 6-7 (7-9), 6-3 to advance.

Seles, ranked 10th, controlled her baseline back against Sanchez Vicario.

Sanchez Vicario, number four in the world, fell behind 0-4 in the second set but rallied to 2-4 and reached break point in the seventh game only to lose it after three deuces.

SPORTS BRIEFS

MAC captain

MAC (Honda) cricketers, named young all-rounder Zafar Abbasi as captain for the forthcoming cricket season. Fozal Rehman will have the responsibility of vice-captain and Javed Hayat will be manager. Other members of the team are Rashid Ansari, Naser Ahmed, Mohammed Shahid, Saleem, Waheed, Kanwar, Hameed, Irfan Sarwar, Ejaz Javid, Razak, Zain and Naveed Khan.

Ahl triumph

CAIRO, Egypt, Sept. 23, (AP): Egypt's Ahli soccer team won the Afro-Asian Championship of League Cup winners yesterday by defeating Japan's Yomiuri Club 1-0 in a match that was attended by President Hosni Mubarak. Ahli's only goal came in the 40th minute when striker Tahir Abu-Zaid scored by the head from a ball Yomiuri's goalkeeper Dirk Havensner repelled from a kick by Egyptian forward Mohamed Abdel-Ghali who bypassed Yomiuri's leftback George Toledo.

Seeds upset

PARIS, Sept. 23, (Reuters): The top three seeds at the Paris women's tennis tournament, Nathalie Tauziat of France, West German Isabelle Cuzco and Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia, all lost in yesterday's quarterfinals.

Noah injured

PARIS, Sept. 23, (Reuters): Yannick Noah will be out of tennis for over a month after burning himself while trying to light a barbecue, his doctor said yesterday. The Frenchman, world-ranked 14th, received second degree burns to his right thigh on Monday after a can of petrol exploded and set light to his trousers.

Lendl wins

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept. 23, (AP): Top-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia advanced to the semifinals of the \$500,000 Count of Godo tennis tournament by beating Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay 6-4, 7-6 yesterday. Lendl won the tournament in 1986 and 1988.

IRB meeting

LONDON, Sept. 23, (Reuters): The International Rugby Board (IRB) will discuss possible breaches of the game's amateur regulations at its November meeting. IRB secretary Keith Rowlands said yesterday.

Gundersen ill

LONDON, Sept. 23, (Reuters): Former world speedway champion Erik Gundersen was still seriously ill yesterday five days after crashing at the World Team Championship in Bradford. The Dane suffered several spinal injuries and remains on a life-support machine in the intensive care unit of a specialist hospital in nearby Wakefield.

Steroid profile

ATHENS, Sept. 23, (Reuters): A new January 1990 steroid profile is to be used at the 1992 Olympic Games, the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) top official said yesterday. "We intend to use the method in weightlifting at official level next year," IWF President Gottfried Schoedl of Austria said.

Unfurnair retiring

LONDON, Sept. 23, (Reuters): Unfurnair, half-brother of Nashwan, is retiring before next month's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe horse race because he is not fit enough, trainer Dick Hern said yesterday.

King banned

LONDON, Sept. 23, (AP): Ian King, a judo heavyweight who was scheduled to represent Wales at next January's Commonwealth Games, has been banned from international competition for three years after testing positive for anabolic steroids, press reports said yesterday.

Yacht race

PORTSMOUTH, England, Sept. 23, (AP): With only days to go before the end of the first stage, leaders in the round-the-world yacht race are shaping up for an exciting finish at Punta del Este, Uruguay. The race press office said Friday that Seolager 2 of New Zealand was still 200 miles (320 kms) ahead of the fleet, with Rothmans, Merit and Fisher and Paykel fighting for second place.

Aussie batsman

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 23, (Reuters): Former Australian Test batsman Steve Smith arrived in South Africa yesterday to join Transvaal province on a three-year contract.

Ginther dies

LONDON, Sept. 23, (Reuters): Richie Ginther, a leading motor racing driver from 1959 to 1967, has died, a family representative said. US born Ginther lived in Britain during the 1960s before moving to France where he died on Wednesday aged 59. Ginther started his Grand Prix career with Ferrari in 1959, moving to BRM in 1962.

Boxing inquiry

LONDON, Sept. 23, (AP): British boxing officials began an inquiry yesterday into a professional bout that ended in pandemonium when a fighter's mouth helped him win by knocking his opponent over the head with his stiletto shoe.

LPGA tourney

BUENA VISTA, Calif., Sept. 23, (Reuters): Pat Bradley led a share of the lead in the \$300,000 LPGA tournament yesterday. But said she would have to improve on her second-round 69 to challenge for the title.

Chang blasts Cahill

Davis upsets Curren



Chang reaches semifinals

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 23, (Reuters): Top-seeded American Michael Chang continued his sharp form to beat Australian Darren Cahill in straight sets yesterday and reach the semifinals of the \$425,000 Los Angeles Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Chang, who has not lost a set in the tournament, thrashed Cahill 6-1, 6-2 to advance to a meeting against unseeded American Scott Davis, who ousted sixth-seeded compatriot Kevin Curren 3-6, 7-6 (7-1), 7-5 in an ill-tempered, quarterfinal upset.

American Brad Gilbert, the second seed, also needed just two sets to score a 6-4, 6-1 victory over eighth-seeded defending champion Mikael Pernfors of Sweden.

Gilbert's semifinal opponent will be compatriot Aaron Krickstein. The fifth seed only 55 minutes to dispose of hard-hitting Canadian Andrew Sznajder 6-0, 6-3.

Cahill, whose form has dropped off since reaching the semifinals at the US Open in 1988, made too many unforced errors to challenge Chang, who mixed up his lightning groundstrokes with confident net play.

Pernfors had chances to win the first five games of his match against Gilbert, but the Swede

used too many difficult shots on break point opportunities against the steady Gilbert.

Instead, Gilbert broke Pernfors for the set 6-4, then led 2-0 when Pernfors was given first a warning, for an audible obscenity, and then a point penalty for delaying the game at 15-40 on his serve.

Pernfors, who said he had yelled in Swedish, protested the warning. "I told him I'd said, 'I don't understand how I could miss so many balls,'" Pernfors explained. "But the umpire thought I said something else."

The match between Davis and Curren was also marked by dispute, this time between the players.

Davis was called for unsportsmanlike conduct in the third set after repudiating Curren whom he alleged had tried to hit him with a shot.

"It was pretty obvious," Davis said. "He went for me. I wasn't going to let him get away with it."

Curren let two match points slip away on errors at 5-2. Then Davis charged back. He broke through for a 6-5 lead then served out the match as the players exchanged more words.

"Scott Davis and I are not friends at all," Curren said. "The guy's a smart aleck on the court. He's a hot mouth."

Kasparov increases lead

TILBURG, Netherlands, Sept. 23, (AP): World champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union strengthened his lead in the standings of the Interpolis chess tournament by beating Norwegian grandmaster Simen Agdestein in yesterday's seventh round.

With seven rounds left, the world champion had six points for an unbeaten record of five wins and two draws. The eight contestants meet each other twice in the \$50,000 tournament.

Viktor Korchnoi of Switzerland, the only other grandmaster left unbeaten in Tilburg, was in second a full point behind Kasparov after escaping with a seven-round draw against Ljubomir Ljubojevic of Yugoslavia.

Ljubojevic followed a line of the Nimzo-Indian defense with black and profited from inaccurate opening play by his opponent to win an early pawn. But Korchnoi is at his best in positions where he is at a disadvantage, and Ljubojevic failed to find a way to upset white's stubborn defense.

The peace was signed at the 36th, when both players had barely a minute left for the four moves to the time control.

The battle was resumed in the analysis room, where Korchnoi produced a watertight defense for each of the "winning lines" that Ljubo suggested. It was only after one hour of hot debate that Ljubo agreed the position had been a draw after all.

Also yesterday, Johann Hjartarson of Iceland and Hungary's Gyula Sax agreed to a draw after a mere 15 moves from a Nimzo-Indian defense, in which Sax held a slight edge with black.

Holland's Jeroen Pickett came away with the same result against Soviet grandmaster Vassili Ivanchuk after fighting back from a worse position in 37 moves from a king's Indian.

Ivanchuk, who played white, had unleashed a queenside attack and seemed well on his way to a victory when he made a mistake on his 22nd that almost spoiled his advantage.

Stefanov beats former champions

ATHENS, Sept. 23, (Reuters): Bulgarian Peter Stefanov won the third world title for his country when he beat two former champions in the 100 kg division at the World Weightlifting Championship yesterday.

The 23-year-old soldier from Varna trailed the 1986 world and 1984 Olympic champion Nicu Vlad of Romania by 2.5 kg at the snatch, lifting 187.5 kg.

In the jerk, however, the Bulgarian proved more stable and easily ended his series of three successful attempts with an effortless 227.5 kg.

Vlad started well with 222.5 kg, but then failed twice at 225 kg which left his total at 412.5 kg, 2.5 kg less than that of the Bulgarian.

The Olympic and defending world champion Pavel Kuznetsov of the Soviet Union, pale and

seemingly unwell, was never in touch and managed only a total of 400.0 kg — 25 kg less than in Seoul last year. But it was enough for the third place.

Stefanov's win was his first ever by Bulgarian in a major international event in the semi-heavyweight division.

Bulgaria have won three gold medals at the championships and Soviet Union four.

Longo trains for world mark attempt

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 23, (AP): Three-time world champion Jeannie Longo, in pursuit of a one-hour altitude cycling record, trained yesterday until a downpour forced her to quit.

The 31-year-old Frenchwoman did a few slow laps in a light drizzle, then some faster ones before harder rains began at a track 7,250 feet (2,200 metres) above sea level.

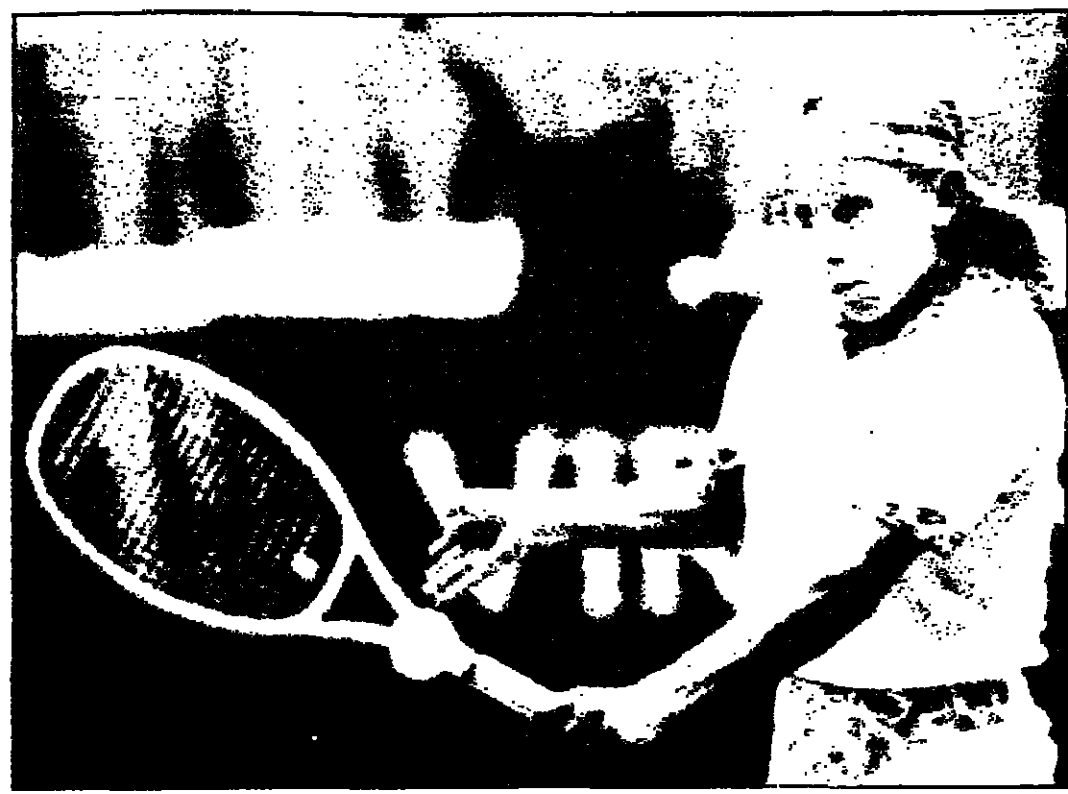
Longo said she plans her first official trials Monday, but did not know when she will try to break the current record of 44,933 kilometres (27,930 miles) an hour.

She said she wants to attain at least 45 kilometres (28 miles) per hour.

"It all depends how much time it takes from me to get acclimatized," she added.

Longo, who holds nine world records including the one-hour sea level mark, said she may try to better her 10 and 20 kilometre records.

She said she will use a vintage bicycle without complicated instruments in order to save weight.



Navratilova returns a shot to Reggi. (Reuters wirephoto)

Western media slammed
Our date is Oct 30, says Sheikh Fahd

THE deputy chairman of the organising committee for the first Peace and Friendship Games, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, yesterday rapped some media circles — particularly the West — for hinting that Kuwait will not be able to host the Games successfully.

Sheikh Fahd emphasized that "our date is Oct 30" and said that the number of countries who have agreed to take part in the event has now increased to 43. The Games are scheduled to start on Oct 30 and finish on Nov 12.

Sheikh Fahd added that the international sports federations had been against the holding of these Games because they had thought this event was going to be a political gathering. This misconception had developed because many Islamic countries have been invited to this event.

"It is now up to the Islamic countries to prove themselves by actively taking part in the Games," said Sheikh Fahd, who is also the chairman of the Kuwait Football Association, the Kuwait Olympic Committee and also the Olympic Council of Asia.

He also stressed that Games are the brainchild of HH the Amir and primarily aim at strengthening the ties between the Islamic countries and youths. Sheikh Fahd added that HH the Amir will himself attend the event besides opening the Games.

Sheikh Fahd said that the opening ceremonies of the event would act as the real barometer for the success of the Games as this event would be telecast live to all the participating countries.

This decision was announced at a meeting with the director of physical training and scouts at the Ministry of Education Jassem Al Jeemaz and other officials.

The OCA chairman praised the efforts being made by the Education Ministry to ensure the success of the opening ceremonies, especially the displays which would reflect Kuwait's progress in all respects.

Al Jeemaz said that the displays were ready and that the students would start practicing this week. Sheikh Fahd told the meeting that a fireworks display would also be held by the Ministry of Defence. A huge model of the Al Aqsa mosque will also be exhibited at the opening ceremonies.

Meanwhile, the Minister of



Sheikh Fahd

Social Affairs and Labour and the Chairman of the organising committee, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed has praised the response from all the ministries and also the co-operation extended to the organising committee. He made this announcement during a meeting with Sheikh Fahd.

The undersecretary at the Ministry of Communications Abdul Aziz Al Ayoub said that his ministry has provided all the necessary telecommunication services for the Games. He said that telex and facsimile services have also been supplied to all the press and information centres to facilitate the coverage of this event. A videotax service has also been installed at some places to provide information about Kuwait and the Games.

In a related development, Sheikh Fahd sent invitations to a number of important sports personalities in the Islamic world. He has invited all the members in the International Olympic Committee from the Islamic countries and also the presidents of the federations of the five sports to be held at the Games besides other known personalities.

Major Yousef Al Madahka, a member of the organising committee and also the head of security for the Games, said that Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah has issued instructions for all security facilities to be provided during the Games. He added that the Interior Ministry has worked out a comprehensive plan for the Games to ensure that they are held peacefully.

Meanwhile, the Minister of

Yankees outlast Orioles

NEW YORK, Sept. 23, (AP): Mel Hall ended an 0-for-16 slump with New York's third solo home run of the game, snapping a 4-4 tie in the sixth inning last night and giving the Yankees a 5-4 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

Baltimore fell two games behind Toronto in the American League East when the Blue Jays beat Milwaukee 7-3.

The Yankees took a 4-0 lead against Dave Johnson, who lasted only three innings. Steve Balboni and Randy Velarde homered in the second inning. In the third, Steve Sax singled and scored on a double by Alvaro Espinoza, who took third on the throw home and scored on a sacrifice fly by Don Mattingly.

Blue Jays 7, Brewers 3. Manny Lee, Lloyd Moseby and Mookie Wilson hit RBI singles in Toronto's four-run fourth inning. Baltimore and Toronto both have eight games left. The Brewers are 7-1/2 games out and will be eliminated if they lose to Toronto this evening.

Dave Stieb, 16-8, yielded one run and seven hits in seven innings and beat Milwaukee for the third time this season.

Athletics 5, Twins 2. Dave Stewart's 100th career victory made him the only pitcher of the 1980s with three straight 20-win seasons as Oakland increased its AL West lead to four games over rained-out California.

Stewart, 20-9, allowed six hits and both Minnesota runs in seven innings in joining Kansas City's Bret Saberhagen and Houston's Mike Scott as the Major League's only 20-game winners this season.

Results		American League	
1. Kansas City	9	Seattle	2
2. Seattle	0	3. Kansas City	0
4. Boston	9	5. Baltimore	4
6. Oakland	5	7. Detroit	7
8. Toronto	7	9. Minnesota	2
10. Chicago	7	11. Milwaukee	3
12. California	9	13. Texas	6
California at Cleveland postponed - rain.			
Chicago	4	Pittsburgh	2
New York	3	Montreal	3
Cincinnati	8	Atlanta	2
St. Louis	2	Philadelphia	1
(10 innings)			
Los Angeles	2	San Diego	1
Houston	3	San Francisco	1

TAC may investigate Flo-Jo allegations

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Sept. 23, (Agencies): The US governing body for athletics will likely investigate allegations of drug use by Olympic champion Florence Griffith-Joyner and other American athletes, a spokesman for the Athletics Congress (TAC) said yesterday.

"I would be very surprised if there wasn't an investigation," said Pete Cava, information director for TAC.

"What we read (Thursday) is of primary importance to us," Cava said. "If it takes a top athlete in the US going down like Ben Johnson did in Canada, then so be it."

Cava was alluding to allegations made by Darrell Robinson, US 400 metres champion in 1986, who told the West German magazine Stern that he sold banned growth hormones to Griffith-Joyner, who retired in February after winning the 100 and 200 metres titles in world record times at the 1988 Seoul Games.

He repeated the charges on Thursday in an interview on a network television talk show. Griffith-Joyner also known as Flo-Jo, who appeared on the same television programme, angrily denied the allegations, calling Robinson a "compulsive, crazy, lying lunatic."

But TAC is taking his comments seriously, Cava said. If approved by the group's executive committee, an investigation would begin with a



Flo-Jo: after winning 100 metres in Seoul

three-member panel hearing Robinson's testimony, Cava said.

Meanwhile, Flo-Jo's agent said yesterday that the Olympic champion will take legal action against Robinson and Stern for

alleging she bought muscle-building substances.

"We'll take legal action against Robinson and anybody else who encouraged or pushed him into this," Gordon Baskin, a Los Angeles-based agent, told

Reuters. David Rudich, a lawyer for Griffith-Joyner, said Robinson would most likely face a slander suit in the United States. "His statements are clearly actionable," he said.

In the case of Stern, Rudich said a US suit was unlikely because of the free speech protections of the first amendment of the constitution, but a West German lawyer had been hired to explore the possibility of legal action in that country.

Baskin said Robinson's allegations of steroid use were not the first to be leveled at Griffith-Joyner, referring to statements by Brazilian runner Joaquim Cruz at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and by double Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis.

"We're just not going to take it any longer. We should have taken legal action before," Baskin said.

Griffith-Joyner's times in the 100 and 200 metres improved dramatically in the year leading up to the Seoul Games, in which she won gold medals in both events in world record times and added another gold in the 400 metres relay.

In a related development, Lewis was quoted by a mass-circulation West German newspaper yesterday as calling himself a "clean athlete," but hedged commenting about Flo-Jo.

Bild said it conducted the interview in its Hamburg office, but did not say when. That made

it unclear whether Lewis was responding to the Stern report.

"I deny all the accusations, regardless of who raises them," Bild quoted Lewis as saying. "I say once and for all that I am a clean athlete."

Asked if track and field would "ever again" be free of dope, Bild quoted Lewis as saying "I don't know if it ever was."

Commenting on Bild's suggestions that all world records be nullified to establish new ones by "clean athletes," the newspaper quoted Lewis as saying "that would be unfair to all the athletes who up to now have worked with honest methods."

"I would back our sprinters Joe DeLoach and Steve Lewis in that completely," Bild quoted as saying.

"What about Florence Griffith-Joyner?" Bild said it asked Lewis.

"I only spoke of the male runners," the newspaper quoted Lewis as saying.

The Bild interview, which appeared in the newspaper's yesterday editions with the large headline "I am a clean athlete," was printed in German language, and translated into English by the Associated Press.

The newspaper also quoted Lewis as saying that Canadian Ben Johnson, who was stripped of the 100-metre world title he won in Rome in 1987 after admitting he used anabolic steroids, "could never beat me without dope."



Filcheck members take their rating tests

Entries still open for
Filcheck tournament

THE first "Active Chess Tournament" organised by the Filipino chess club in Kuwait (Filcheck) will start at 8.00 am on Friday, September 29th, at the Kabayan Restaurant.

Expected to attend the simple opening ceremonies are the club officers and members, sponsors, Philippine Embassy officials and prominent leaders in the Philippine community.

More than 40 Filipino chess players have already registered but entry forms will still be accepted until Tuesday, September 26, at the Kabayan Restaurant. Winners will receive trophies and valuable prizes donated by Supplying Stores Co., A Dawlah Electronics (distributor of Kasparov Chess Computers), Trico International (No Kilo) Forwarders, and Kabayan Restaurant.

Engineer Edward Racaza, Filcheck president, requests all members to attend the final meeting at 6.30 pm on Thursday, Sept. 28. Official tournament uniforms will be distributed.

Meanwhile, entries for the club's search for a logo can be submitted to the club's headquarters in Kabayan Restaurant latest by September 26. Winner will be announced during the opening ceremonies on Friday.

FILCHECK also announces that chess rating tests are being given to members which will be used as basis in determining their respective groupings in future tournaments.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Jubilee soccer

KUWAIT, Sept 23, (Kuna): Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah today received at his office head and members of the higher committee of the Silver Jubilee Soccer Championship, organised by Al Salmiya Club, who thanked him for patronising the championship. Sheikh Salem later received the head and members of Al Qadisiyah Sports Club on the occasion of winning the Silver Jubilee Championship Cup.

Cup finals

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, Sept 23, (Reuters): Sardinian politicians expressed alarm today at reports that the England soccer team could play in Cagliari if they qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals. Conciliators belonging to the Sardinian Action Party said the presence of the England side on the Italian island could provoke "serious problems for public order."

Gonzales wins

MOSCOW, Sept 23, (AP): Tony Gonzales became the sixth US boxer to advance in the World Amateur Boxing Championships today with an exciting win over a Turk. Gonzales, jabbing well and firing with both hands inside, advanced to the 119-pound quarterfinals with a 25-17 decision over Ramazan Gul.

Asian volleyball

SEOUL, Sept 23, (Reuters): Results at the fifth Asian Men's Volleyball Championship today: Semifinals: South Korea beat Pakistan 3-0 (15-4 15-1 15-9), Japan beat China 3-0 (15-11 15-10 15-2).

Swedish team

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Sept 23, (AP): In just five years the Swedish men's volleyball team has transformed from also-ran to a gold medal contender in the European Championships. Having boosted its confidence after exhibition wins over such leading volleyball nations as the United States, Argentina and Brazil recently, the Swedes figure to be among defending champion Soviet Union's chief challengers in the 12-team championship.

Yacht race

ALASSIO, Italy, Sept 23, (Reuters): West Germans Albert Batzill and Peter Lang won the flying Dutchman World Yachting Championship today after the cancellation of the seventh and final race for lack of wind.

Road race

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 23, (UPI): More than 70 runners from 25 countries line up for the seventh women's world 15 kilometre road race championships tomorrow. The powerful Soviets defend their team title and will be led by marathon star Yekaterina Khramenkova.

Women's Open

MATSUMACHO, Japan, Sept 23, (AP): Taiwan's Tu Ai-Yu, after winning the Kosoado Asahi Golf Cup tournament just last week, fired a 69 yesterday to take the lead after the opening round in the rain-shortened Miyagi TV Cup Women's Open golf tournament.

Hockey promotion

EPINAL, France, Sept 23, (UPI): After 16 seasons as a star for the National Hockey League's Montreal Canadiens, Bob Gainey has joined French Division 1B hockey club Epinal. Gainey, who played on five Stanley Cup champion teams in Montreal, said his arrival is an effort to promote hockey in France.

Racing classic

DUBLIN, Sept 23, (Reuters): Result of the Group One Irish St Leger horse racing classic run over one and three-quarter miles (2.8 km) at the Curragh today: 1. Petite Ile (ridden by Ron Quinton) 3-1 favourite, 2. Tyrone Bridge (David Parnell) 8-1, 3. Lazax (Walter Swinburn) 6-1.

Michelozzo wins

AYR, Scotland, Sept 23, (Reuters): Result of the Group One English St Leger horse racing classic run over one mile six furlongs and 127 yards (2.9 km) today: 1. Michelozzo (ridden by Steve Cauthen) 6-4 favourite, 2. Sapience (Kieran Fallon) 15-1, 3. Roseate Ten (Willie Carson) 5-2.

W. German soccer

Results of the West German Cup second round: Muenchengladbach 4 Nuremberg 1, Bayern M 2 Mannheim 0, Kickers S 2 Bremen 0, Darmstadt 1 Leverkusen 0, Freiburg 1 Karlsruhe 0, Mainz 1 Kaiserslautern 3, Arminia Hannover 2 Cologne 4, Hildesheim 0 TSV Hoffenheim 0, Flensburg 1 Bochum 0.

Jansher, Opie retain Singapore titles

SINGAPORE, Sept 23, (Reuters): Topseed Jansher Khan of Pakistan wore down Australian Chris Dittmar to retain his Singapore Open squash title with a commanding 9-15 15-13 15-5 win in the men's final today.

England's Lisa Opie, women's top seed in the absence of world number one Susan Devoy of New Zealand, beat Australia's Danielle Drady in a nailbiting finish to their final 15-9 15-8 13-15 17-16 and then complained about her prize money.

Second-seeded Dittmar, 25, took Jansher slightly by surprise in the 20-minute first game, which was full of long rallies with both players opting for caution.

But Jansher took charge from the second game, wrapping it up in determined style in 24 minutes, and sealing victory less than half an hour later.

Dittmar seemed to be drained after the exertions of the first game and Jansher said later: "I was not worried after losing the first set. My plan was to tire him and it worked."

Opie, the defending champion, appeared to be heading for an easy win when she took the first two games but made several unforced errors in the third to allow the fifth-seeded Drady to move into a 10-5 lead after five minutes.

Opie, ranked two in the world, clawed back to 14-12, but could not deny Drady the game. In the fourth, which lasted 12 minutes, Drady had a chance to force a decider when she had

two game points at 16-14.

But Opie, 26, playing at her best, took the next three points to win.

Opie was unhappy with her \$2,000 prize. "The ladies' top prize is less than what the men's runner-up received, \$3,600," she said.

"I hope the organisers will increase the prize money next year, only then can they expect world number one player Susan Devoy to come," she said.

Liverpool thrash Everton

City brush aside United

LONDON, Sept 23, (Reuters): Liverpool blasted another icy warning across English soccer today when they won 3-1 at their nearest and biggest rivals, Everton.

Edged out of the title by Arsenal in the dying seconds of last season, Liverpool are clearly in the mood to re-assert themselves.

After trailing 1-0, two second half goals in two minutes from Ian Rush did just that at Goodison Park.

The goals Rush scored were his 22nd and 23rd in the 24 Liverpool-Everton matches in which he has played — a remarkable strike rate.

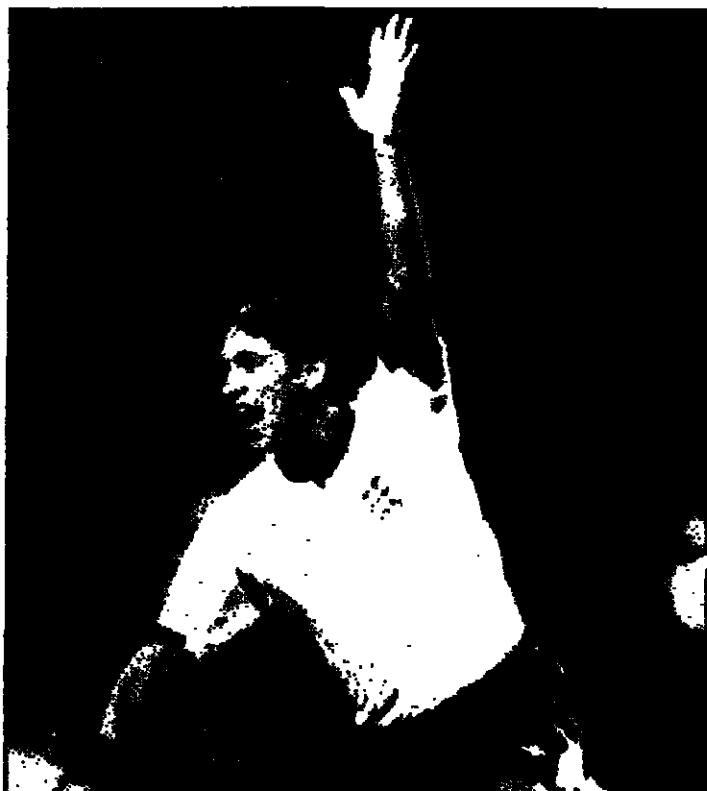
The result took Liverpool back to the top, a spot they last occupied briefly 11 days ago after thrashing Crystal Palace 9-0.

Everton dropped from first to fifth place as London clubs Chelsea, Millwall and Arsenal leapfrogged above them.

Chelsea, the surprise team of the season, sent Coventry from third to sixth with a 1-0 win at home, courtesy of a fifth minute Kevin Wilson goal.

Millwall beat bottom club Sheffield Wednesday 2-0 and Arsenal edged past Charlton 1-0, thanks to a second half Brian Marwood penalty.

Big-spending Manchester



Lineker got his first goal for Spurs

United crashed 5-1 to neighbours Manchester City in a game held up for eight minutes after part of the big crowd split on to

the pitch. United, who beat Millwall 5-1 a week ago, were without the leadership of England captain

Bryan Robson, injured again.

His former international team-mate Trevor Francis, now player-manager at Queen's Park Rangers, scored a hat-trick in the first 47 minutes in a fine 3-1 win at Aston Villa.

England striker Gary Lineker scored his first goal for his new club Tottenham but after leading Norwich 2-0, the Londoners were pulled back to 2-2.

Northern Ireland's Wilson gave Chelsea their winner at Stamford Bridge, but the First Division newcomers almost paid for their profligate finishing. Coventry's centre half Howard Clark missed an open goal seven minutes from time.

English Division One	English Division Two	English Division Three
Aston Villa 1	Charlton 0	Leyton O 1
Crystal Palace 1	Coventry 0	Reading 0
Derby 0	Crystal P 1	Sheff Wed 0
Everton 1	Derby 0	Sheff Wed 0
Leeds 1	Everton 1	Sheff Wed 0
Manchester C 5	Leeds 1	Sheff Wed 0
Millwall 2	Manchester U 1	Sheff Wed 0
Norwich 2	Millwall 2	Sheff Wed 0
Sheff Wed 2	Norwich 2	Sheff Wed 0
Tottenham 2	Sheff Wed 2	Sheff Wed 0
Watford 1	Tottenham 2	Sheff Wed 0
West Ham 1	Watford 1	Sheff Wed 0
Wolves 1	West Ham 1	Sheff Wed 0
Wolves 1	Wolves 1	Sheff Wed 0

Europe retain lead

SUTTON COLDFIELD, Sept 23, (Reuters): Europe held off the United States today as Seve Ballesteros and Jose-Maria Olazabal helped preserve the Ryder Cup holders' overnight two-point advantage.

The Europeans headed into the afternoon fourballs leading 7-5 after the Spanish pair, despite some wild hitting by Olazabal, withstood a determined fight-back by Curtis Strange and Tom Kite.

They claimed a one-hole victory to level the morning four-somes at 2-2.

Three down with seven to play, US Open champion Strange and his partner won the next two holes but could not further into the deficit as Ballesteros holed from seven feet at the 18th.

Earlier, Chip Beck and Paul Azinger collected a welcome point for the Americans with a 4

and 3 triumph over Scots Sam Torrance and Gordon Brand Jr.

British Open champion Mark Calcavecchia and Ken Green earned the visitors another point, beating Christy O'Connor Jr of Ireland and Northern Irishman Ronan Rafferty 3 and 2.

But in between, Britons Nick Faldo, the US masters champion, and Ian Woosnam won for Europe, overcoming US PGA champion Payne Stewart and Lanny Wadkins 3 and 2.

The American team needed a huge improvement on yesterday's fourballs, which they lost 4-0 after winning the morning four-somes 3-1.

Captain Ray Floyd showed his concern by breaking his policy of playing all 12 of his team each day.

Wadkins was left out in favour of Mark McCumber.

Senna claims pole

ESTORIL, Portugal, Sept 23, (Reuters): Brazilian world champion Ayrton Senna produced yet another stunning qualifying performance today when he claimed pole position for tomorrow's Portuguese Grand Prix.

The McLaren driver, after delaying his entrance in another interrupted session, clocked a flying lap time of one minute 15.468 seconds on Estoril's tight and twisting 4.350 km circuit.

Senna improved his track-best qualifying time set yesterday and claimed his 10th pole position in 13 races to date this season. It was the 39th pole of his career.

He will share the front row of the grid with Austrian Gerhard

Berger, the man who joins him at McLaren next year. Berger, driving a Ferrari, recorded an improved time of 1:16.059 to narrowly eclipse team-mate Nigel Mansell of Britain.

Mansell, in the second Ferrari, was third quickest with a time of 1:16.193 and he will share the second row of the grid for tomorrow's race with his 1990 Ferrari team-mate Alain Prost of France in the second McLaren.

Italian Pierluigi Martini finished with the fifth-best qualifying time and will share the third row of the grid with fellow Italian Riccardo Patrese in the new Williams, making its debut at this race.

Brazil cruise past US for bridge crown

PERTH, Australia, Sept 23, (Reuters): Brazil won the world's most coveted bridge title today by beating reigning champions the United States in the final of the Bermuda Bowl tournament.

The Brazilians were victorious by 442 international match points to 389. At one stage they were leading by 140 points.

Poland won the bronze medal and Australia were fourth.

Brazil had to play eight more days of qualifying matches than the United States.

Gabriel Chagas and Marcelo Branco played all but 32 of the 784 deals available during the 14-day tournament, far more than any other pair.

The United States successfully defended the Venice Cup women's title after their supremacy was seriously threatened by the Netherlands.

Despite losing the Bermuda Bowl, the Americans still dominate the game, holding every other major trophy.

Lancias lead

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Sept 23, (AP): Reigning European champion Fabrizio Tabaton of Italy in a Lancia Integrale today led at the half-way stage of the tough Rothmans Cyprus rally followed by two other Lancias.

Tabaton, who came second in last year's event, was nearly five minutes ahead of his team-mate Yves Loubet of France of the HF Grifone team.

Loubet clinched the 1989 European Motor Rally Driving Championship following the withdrawal from the event soon after its start yesterday of his main rival, Robert Droogmans.

Al Zinki triumphs

Top teams share bowling honours

By Sonny Mariano

IN one of the most awaited match-ups of the on going PBAK Inter Continental Bowling League, the Cabani Ramona Magnates and the National Electronics experts engaged themselves in a furious battle for prestige but they proved to be evenly matched as they both emerged as winners.

In the 3 games that were played, Cabana won over National two games to one but National still managed to get ahead in the win points total by a tally of 56-55. The top scorers for Cabana were Pete Valiano (548) and Arthur Reyes (528) while Mansoor (571) and Mohammed Seraj (565) led National.

The other games on Thursday were dominated by the favourites with the NTC traders setting the trend with a 3-0 win over Trico Int'l. Amkul (567), Joe Charwit (563) and Rudy Zablan (556) guided the traders to its impressive victory while the losing team had Freddie Fernandez (519) and Mel Corvera (483) as their best bowlers.

The Magnolia Ice Cream makers fashioned out a similar 3-0 countering win over the all American Johners. Munib Hamdan (588), Waleed Al Zinki (574) and Jim Minala (546) were the leading scorers for Magnolia while the best Johners were Jerrie (597), Al (492) and Jim (478).

Going into Friday's mixed action, first in the women's division, Al Sara Design finally showed a noteworthy performance winning over Trico Int'l 3 games to none. The designers effort produced a high 58 points which pulled them up in the standings. Lynne Reyes (565), Amy Abdon (556) and Beng Gutierrez (533) showed the way for Al Sara while Trico was led by Nitz Alana (535), RC Ruiz (491) and Cherry Nepomuceno (491).

In the only other match in the women's division, Cabana did a remarkable feat by defeating the favourites and defending champions Far East Restaurant 2-1. Arleen Bonillo (565) and Babes Penaloza (517) led all scorers from Cabana while Cecil Contreras (567) and Eva Sabay (522) toposcored for Far East.

Back to the men's division, Magnolia registered a double this weekend by beating Trico Int'l 2-1. Again the top three scorers for Magnolia were Munib, Waleed and Jim M. while Trico banked on Mel, Rodol and Tony.

The other games saw Al Rashed Freight continuing what they started last week by outstriking Hempel Paints 3-0. Leading Freight Movers were George Gasarian (569), Bert Pagas (541) and Cris (523). The paint makers on the other hand were led by Bada Borja (524), Jimmy Tadena (485) and Milo Coronado (486). Pullman also came out victorious last Friday with a 2-1 decision over Tectron. The Hoteliers were Rod Dula (623), Rene Cabardo (563) and Ed Delcon (509). Tectron had Osman (540), Sam Baker (534) and Vic Chong (525).

Finally the Penguins edged Phil Supreme 2-1 and leading scorers for Penguins were Joel Laron (560) Ar Cabal (547) and Celso Alcamis (520). The Food makers were led by Joel Bonillo (573) and Sals (556). The High Game was submitted by Rod Dula with 232 and Arleen Bonillo with 223 while the High Series was registered by Cecil Contreras with 567 and Rod Dula with 623.

The top three finishers in the men's division will be receiving trophies donated by Mahubay Beauty Salon for men and women while the top two in the women's division will receive the trophies courtesy of Harid Ligaya-Abugoch. Medals will also go to bowlers who will score 210 in the women's and 220 in the men's division.

In another PBAK tournament completed this week, Waleed Al Zinki won the Grade A tournament when he scored a six game total of 1176 pinfalls. Coming in second was Ryan Abdon with 1175 followed by Anukul with a score of 1139 and finally coming in fourth was JVC with 1126. The top four players will be joined by the other eight top finishers to form the PBAK team which will play a series of time up games with the Kuwait National team.

The other team members are as follows: Edwin Nepomuceno, Saad Al Khezi, Flor Tongson, Rod Dula, Rico Fino, George Gasarian, Pete Valiano and Munib Hamdan. All the members will have a meeting today at the 300 Club at 7:00 pm.

ALPBAK officers are reminded that there will be a meeting on Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Far East Restaurant.

"Hundreds of flowers in KLM's new office."

"They've made a really fresh start."

Large entry expected for Arab tourney

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

A VERY large number of Arab countries will participate in the Arab Brotherhood Tennis Tournament (ABTT) for 16-18 year olds, according to the head of the higher committee for the tournament.

Sami Al Ibrahim, who is also the undersecretary at the Ministry of Electricity and Water, told a press conference at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel yesterday that 18 countries are expected to contest this event to be hosted by Kuwait from Oct 2 to Oct 10.

Al Ibrahim said that the number of entries clearly reflects the popularity of the sport in the Arab countries. This was the reason, he said, that Kuwait had



Sami Al Ibrahim accepted the challenge to host the event despite the fact that tennis was still in its infancy in this country.

The countries expected to take part in the event are Djibouti, Sudan, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, South Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait. The entries of all these countries have, however, so far not been confirmed.

Al Ibrahim added that these countries have players with a lot of experience but Kuwait was ready to make its mark by producing a good result.

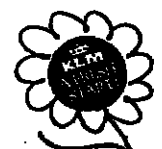
The teams will be divided into four groups if the number of entries, as expected, exceeds 11 but only two groups will be made if the number is less than that. A total of six players will represent each country.

The tournament will be played at the Ramada Al Salam tennis courts, the Sea Sports Club, Yarmouk Stadium, Tennis Centre, Al Arabi Sports Kazma Stadium and Qadisiyah Stadium.

The draws for the tournament will be held on Oct 1.

Al Ibrahim said that the Kuwaiti team has been preparing for this event for the last four months. He also praised the efforts made by the president of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed and also the ministers of social affairs and labour, and information to ensure the success of this tournament.

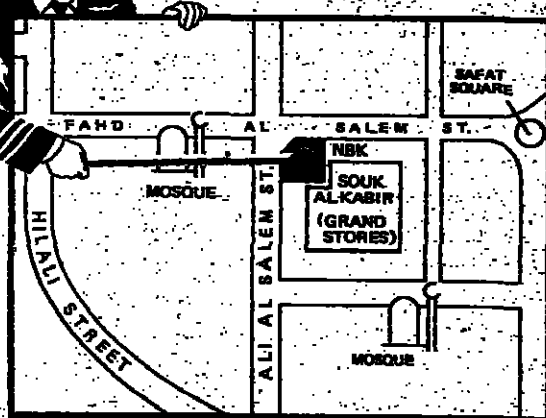
The visiting delegations are expected to pay visits to high ranking officials and also tour the country.



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